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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, September 30, 2014



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

Netanyahu: Hamas, Islamic State Share Creed

**EDITH M. LEDERER
M. DARAGHMEH
Associated Press**
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In a blistering speech to the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Monday that Hamas and the Islamic State group are “branches of the same poisonous

tree,” both bent on world domination through terror, just as the Nazis were. Netanyahu also lashed back at Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who accused Israel last week of carrying out war crimes and waging a “war of genocide” during the fighting in Gaza. Netan-

yahu said Hamas committed “the real war crimes” in Gaza by using Palestinian civilians as human shields. Addressing the U.N. General Assembly’s annual ministerial meeting, the Israeli leader argued that Israel’s fight against Hamas and the U.S. military campaign against the Islamic State

are part of the same cause — the defeat of Islamic extremism. Netanyahu railed against world leaders for simultaneously condemning the Jewish state for its war with Hamas and praising President Barack Obama for attacking Islamic State militants and other extremists

in Syria and Iraq. “They evidently don’t understand that ISIS and Hamas are branches of the same poisonous tree,” the prime minister said, referring to the Islamic State group by one of its acronyms.

Continued on page 3

At Press Time:

Hong Kong protesters defy call to disperse

AUSTIN RAMZY

ALAN WONG

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HONG KONG - A wave of protest in Hong Kong extended into the working week Monday as thousands of residents defied a government call to abandon street blockades across the city, students boycotted classes and the city's influential bar association added to condemnation of a police crack-

a major thoroughfare in the heart of Hong Kong but appeared Monday to have motivated more people to join the student-led protests. A government announcement that the riot police had been withdrawn from the protest centers also seemed to open the door to growing demonstrations. The number of protesters, which had ebbed overnight, swelled again by midday

participate for an hour but wanted to show her support.

"The protesters, they are so young," she said. "They are fighting for our future, for my children's future."

Demonstrators were also blocking major streets in the busy shopping district of Causeway Bay and in Mongkok in Kowloon, one of the world's most densely packed places.

Many of the protesters in



Pro-democracy protesters gather in the early hours of the morning, while others spent the night on the streets around the government headquarters, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014 in Hong Kong. Pro-democracy protesters expanded their rallies throughout Hong Kong on Monday, defying calls to disperse in a major pushback against Beijing's decision to limit democratic reforms in the Asian financial hub. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

down on protesters a day earlier.

The continued public resistance underscored the difficulties that the Hong Kong government faces in defusing widespread anger that erupted Sunday, after police used tear gas, pepper spray and batons to break up a three-day sit-in by students and other residents demanding democratic elections in the semiautonomous Chinese territory.

On Monday afternoon, the Hong Kong government canceled the city's annual fireworks show to mark China's National Day, which falls on Wednesday - an implicit acknowledgment that officials expect the protests to continue for days.

The police crackdown Sunday not only failed to dislodge protesters from

Monday, as office workers in slacks and dress shirts mixed with crowds of students in black T-shirts.

Many of the new arrivals said they were angered by the police's actions Sunday, which they called excessive.

"This morning I was happy to see that they stayed and insisted on continuing the protest," said Cindy Sun, a 30-year-old bank worker who joined protesters in the Admiralty district during her lunch hour.

"What they were doing was not appropriate, especially the tear gas," she said. "The students were completely peaceful."

Chloe Wong, 46, a mother of two, said she was inspired to join the protesters in Admiralty by the scenes of tear gas being fired the day before. She said she could only find time to par-

Admiralty were wearing surgical masks and goggles in anticipation that the police would again try to disperse them with tear gas or pepper spray. The announcement about the riot police appeared to allay such fears, at least for the time being.

"Because the residents who have assembled on the roadways have largely returned to calm, the riot police have already withdrawn," an unidentified spokesman for the government said in the statement Monday. The spokesman "urged the assembled residents to maintain calm and to peacefully disperse."

But after the statement was released, some police officers with riot shields and other crowd-control equipment remained near the protesters in Admiralty. □

HONG KONG PROTESTS What You Need To Know

MICHAEL FORSYTHE

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Hong Kong belongs to China. But the grass-roots political movements responsible for the protests underway in the heart of the city's financial district would never have taken root in any other Chinese city.

Freedom of speech, assembly, religion and a free press are all enshrined in Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, drafted to govern the city of 7.2 million people upon its return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 after more than 150 years of British rule. Hong Kong residents are guaranteed those rights until 2047, and a legal system inherited from the British helps keep it intact.

It is a system called "one country, two systems" that the leaders in Beijing hope - or hoped - would someday also be applied to Taiwan to encourage its political reunion with the motherland. Taiwan has been ruled separately since 1949.

Lately, however, Chinese officials, including President Xi Jinping, have been reminding Hong Kong that the first clause of that phrase, "One country," is in Beijing's eyes more important than the second. Hong Kong is not an independent country. It doesn't have ambassadors, and the People's Liberation Army garrisons troops in the city, headquartered in a former British military building on the waterfront. Any changes to the Basic Law have to be ratified by the country's legislature, the National People's Congress, which is controlled by the Communist Party.

It is the wording of the Basic Law, and the legislature's interpretation of what it means, that set off the dramatic street protests in Hong Kong last week. Article 45 of the law, which was ratified in 1990, states that Hong Kong's top leader, the chief executive, should eventually be chosen "by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures." The government in Beijing has to approve of any decision made by Hong Kong voters, according to the Basic Law.

British colonial governors were picked by London, and, since the handover 17 years ago, Hong Kong's chief executives have been chosen by a small group dominated by Beijing loyalists. The current chief executive, Leung Chun-ying, was elected in 2012 with 689 votes from an election committee of fewer than 1,200 people voting. In 2007, the People's Congress ruled that in 2017 the chief executive could be chosen by universal suffrage - one person, one vote.

The hitch: the "broadly representative nominating committee." On Aug. 31, the National People's Congress Standing Committee ruled that to appear on the ballot, candidates had to get more than half the votes of the nominating committee, which would be identical to the election committee that had picked previous chief executives. To Hong Kong's pro-democracy activists, this was unacceptable because it guaranteed that only candidates approved by Beijing would be nominated. One of the pro-democracy group's leaders, Benny Tai, a professor at Hong Kong University, likens it to the way Iran picks its president.

For more than a year, an eclectic group of pro-democracy activists, encompassing university professors, Christian evangelicals, students and a set of lawmakers in Hong Kong's Legislative Council, had warned Beijing that if it set rules for the elections that did not comply with internationally accepted norms for free and fair elections, they would engage in a nonviolent protests in the Central district of Hong Kong, the heart of Asia's most important financial center. □

Netanyahu: Hamas, Islamic State Share Creed

Continued from Front

He added: "When it comes to its ultimate goals, Hamas is ISIS, and ISIS is Hamas." Netanyahu said ISIS and Hamas, as well as other Muslim extremist movements, including al-Qaida, share the goal of imposing militant Islam on the world. He likened them to "another fanatic ideology that swept into power eight decades ago" — Nazism. Turning to another regional enemy, Netanyahu warned again about the danger of a nuclear-armed Iran and said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's condemnation of the spread of terrorism last week amounted to "one of history's greatest displays of doubletalk." Netanyahu accused Iran itself of mounting terrorist attacks all around the world, and lumped the country in with Islamic extremist movements. "To say that Iran doesn't practice terrorism is like saying Derek Jeter never played shortstop for the New York Yankees," he said.

He criticized the efforts of six world powers to reach a nuclear deal with Iran, saying: "To defeat ISIS and leave Iran as a threshold nuclear power is to win the battle and lose the war." He also launched a scathing attack on the U.N. Human Rights Council, accusing it of continually singling out Israel for criticism when other parts of the world are awash in atrocities. He called the Human Rights Council's name "an oxymoron" and charged that the body has become "a terrorist rights council." Netanyahu said the council's treatment of Israel reflects "the return of one of the world's oldest prejudices."

"It's called anti-Semitism. It is now spreading in polite society, where it masquerades as legitimate criticism of Israel," he said. Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee, said Netanyahu's speech was "a bla-

tant manipulation of facts" aimed at misleading world leaders "through a combination of hate language, slander and argument of

larities between Hamas and Islamic State. She said that while the U.S. considers both terrorist organizations, "we obviously believe that

yahu, in his remarks, "buried" the possibility of a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the pre-war borders of 1967. Er-

questioned how Israel can be accused of genocide, saying no country has gone to greater lengths to avoid civilian casualties by warning Gazans before attacks on neighborhoods.

"In what world is genocide warning the enemy's civilians in advance?" he asked.

To make his point about the Palestinians putting weapons in civilian areas, Netanyahu held up a photo he said was taken by a French TV network showing two rocket launchers near an apartment building where three children were playing.

"Israel was using its missiles to protect its children. Hamas was using its children to protect its missiles," he declared.

During the 50-day Gaza war, which ended Aug. 26, Israel launched thousands of airstrikes against what it said were Hamas-linked targets in the densely populated coastal territory, while Gaza militants fired several thousand rockets at Israel. □



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

obfuscation."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki took issue with Netanyahu over the simi-

(Islamic State) poses a different threat to the United States."

Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator, said Netan-

ekat also complained that Netanyahu branded those who dare to stand up to Israel as anti-Semites.

In his address, Netanyahu

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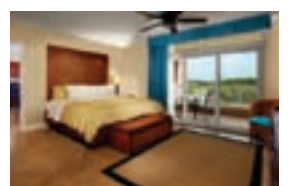
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Police report lead from missing UVA student case

LARRY O'DELL

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— The investigation into the case of a missing student has provided a "significant break" in the unsolved 2009 death of another young woman who disappeared from the University of Virginia campus, state police said Monday. The announcement of the new lead in Morgan Harrington's case came as authorities continue to search for British-born Hannah Graham, 18, who disappeared Sept. 13.

"For the past five years, the Virginia State Police has been aggressively pursuing the investigation into the disappearance and death of 20-year-old Morgan D. Harrington," state



Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr. is escorted into a courtroom for an appearance before 405th District Court Judge Michelle Slaughter. Matthew is being held without bond at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Jail.

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

police said in a written statement. "Last week, the arrest of Jesse L. Matthew Jr., 32, of Charlottesville, Virginia, provided a significant break in this case with a new forensic link for state police investigators to pursue."

The statement provided no specifics about the forensic evidence and said state police would have no further comment. Charlottesville police had searched Matthew's car and apartment, taking several items of clothing from the home. Matthew's attorney, James Camblos, did not immediately respond to a telephone message.

Harrington, a student at Virginia Tech, disappeared after leaving the University of Virginia's John Paul Jones Arena during a Metallica concert on Oct. 17, 2009. Her remains were found in January 2010 in a hayfield in Albemarle County.

Police have said they searched that location for Graham, who was reported missing a day after she was captured by surveillance videos as she walked unaccompanied in Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Police have identified Matthew, a hospital worker, as the last person to be seen with Graham early on the morning of Sept. 13. Matthew was returned from Texas late Friday after he was found on a beach near Galveston, Texas. □

Violent assault ruled out in death of US family

SPRINGVILLE, Utah (AP)

— A preliminary autopsy has ruled out a violent assault as the cause of death of five Utah family members, including three children, found in the parents' bedroom over the weekend, authorities said.

The examination found no evidence of gunshot wounds, stabbing or other visible injuries, investigators said Sunday.

The causes of death will not be known until an analysis of blood samples is concluded, police Lt. Dave

Caron said. The medical examiner's office provided no time frame for the release of those results.

Asked if foul play has been ruled out, Caron said, "I don't rule out anything ... We haven't ruled out anything except there was no violent trauma. We're going to look at everything." He added, however, that he had been inside the house and seen no signs of a struggle.

The bodies were found Saturday night in Springville, about 45 miles south of Salt

Lake City. They were identified as Benjamin Strack, 37; his wife, Kristi, 36; and three of their children, Benson, 14, Emery, 12, and Zion, 11. A test of air in the house by firefighters did not find any carbon monoxide, but investigators have not ruled that out as a possible cause of death. The front door of the house was open and the back door was cracked open before firefighters arrived, Caron said, and gas could have dissipated before the test. The bodies were found by

an older son, who went to the duplex after he did not hear from the family as expected. His name was not released. Caron said someone either saw or talked to the family earlier in the day, but he was unsure about the last person to make contact with them.

Benjamin Strack worked off-and-on for years at the bricklaying company AK Masonry, owner Alex Short said.

"We hadn't seen him for the last two weeks," said Short. □

Teens who crossed US border alone enter schools

KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP Education Writer

FRANKFORD, Delaware (AP)

— American schools are scrambling to provide services to the large number of children and teenagers who crossed the border alone in recent months.

Unaccompanied minors who made up the summer spike at the border have moved to communities of all sizes, in nearly every state, federal data indicates, to live with a relative and await immigration decisions. The Supreme Court has ruled that schools have an obligation to educate all students regardless of their immigration status, so schools have become a safe haven for many of the tens of thousands of these young people mostly from central America living in limbo.

Delaware's rural Sussex County has long attracted immigrants, partly because of work in chicken factories, and soybean and corn fields. The district's population is more than one-quarter Hispanic, and for years has offered an early learning program for non-English speakers.

Still, officials were caught off guard by about 70 new students mostly from Guatemala — part of the wave crossing the border — enrolling last year, mostly at Sussex Central High School. The Indian River School District over the summer break quickly put together special classes for those needing extra English help.

On a recent school day, a group of these mostly Spanish-speaking teenage boys with styled spiky hair and high-top sneakers enthusiastically pecked away on hand-held tablets at the G.W. Carver Education Center, pausing to alert the teacher when stumped.

"If you don't know what you're supposed to write on the line, look at my ex-

amples, OK?" Lori Ott, their English language teacher, told one.

The students are eager but face barriers. Some can barely read or write in their native language.

The district's goal is to get them assimilated — and eventually into a regular high school. There, they can earn a diploma, even if that means participating in adult education programs and going to school until they are 21.

"They just crave it, and they will come and ask questions," Ott said. "How do you say this? And, how do you say that? They just participate and you can't say enough about them."

Donald Hattier, a school board member, said advance warning would have helped with planning. The federal government, he said, "just dropped this on us." He wonders what's next.

"The kids are still coming across the border. This problem has not been solved," Hattier said.

Educators in Delaware and elsewhere say many of these students, who fled poverty and violence, have years-long gaps in schooling. For teenagers, learning in English can prove more difficult than for younger students. They also may be living with relatives or others they didn't know, and the workings of an American school can be confusing.

Others experienced trauma, either in their home country or while crossing the border, and may need mental health help.

"It's a new culture and they already feel that they are alone. ... Some of them don't have their parents here," said English language instructor Alina Miron at Broadmoor High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The school has about a dozen of these students enrolled. □



Teacher Lori Ott, of Millsboro, Del., sits in her classroom at the G.W. Career Educational Center in Frankford, Del., where she teaches the Accelerating Preliterate English Language Learners (A.P.E.L.L.) class. U.S. schools are now dealing with the fallout from the dramatic spike in the number of children and teenagers who crossed into the United States unaccompanied by family; the Supreme Court has ruled that they have an obligation to educate all students regardless of their immigration status. (AP Photo/Emily Varisco)



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Survey: ATM fees keep climbing

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The

penalty for using an ATM that is not affiliated with your bank rose 5 percent over the past year.

The average fee for using an out-of-network ATM climbed to a new high of \$4.35 per transaction, according to a survey released Monday by Bankrate.com. That figure includes \$2.77 that banks charge non-customers and \$1.58 that banks levy against their own customers for using an outside ATM.

Overdraft fees also surged, rising on average over the past 12 months to \$32.74. That's the 16th consecutive record high, the firm said.

Checking account fees have been increasing as lenders adjust to federal banking laws and regulations enacted after the 2008 financial crisis. Among the changes: limits on when banks can charge overdraft fees on ATM and debit card transactions and a reduction in the fees that banks charge merchants for each customer

who uses credit or debit cards for their purchases.

Lenders have responded by hiking overdraft and ATM fees, as well as increasing how much money customers must maintain in the bank to avoid checking account fees.

"I expect fees to continue increasing in years to come, but at a modest pace consistent with what we saw this year, just as was the case prior to the onset of these regulations," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com.

Using another bank's ATM will usually lead to two fees. One is charged by your lender; the other is charged by the owner of the ATM. That's the fee that's risen most consistently and at a faster rate, McBride said.

All told, the average fee for using an out-of-network ATM has vaulted 23 percent over the past five years. It has notched a new high for eight years in a row, according to Bankrate.

The firm surveyed the 10 largest banks and thrifts in 25 large U.S. markets.

The average ATM fees vary across the markets in Bankrate's survey. Phoenix had the highest average fee for users of ATMs outside their bank's network at \$4.96 per transaction. Cincinnati had the lowest average at \$3.75.

Philadelphia had the highest average overdraft fee at \$35.80. San Francisco had the lowest at \$26.74.

The largest U.S. banks all offered free checking with no strings attached until 2009, when the share of all noninterest checking accounts that were free peaked at 76 percent, according to Bankrate. It's now at 38 percent; that's unchanged from last year and only slightly lower than 39 percent in 2012.

Even so, consumers looking for checking accounts without monthly fees have plenty of options. Many credit unions, smaller community banks and on-line banks offer no-strings checking accounts.

Many banks that do charge a monthly fee will often waive it if the account holder has their paycheck deposited directly into the account. □



A sale pending sign is posted in front of a home for sale in Quincy, Mass. The National Association of Realtors released its August report on pending home sales, which are seen as a barometer of future purchases, on Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

AP: Contracts to buy U.S. homes slowed in August

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in August, suggesting that real estate sales will remain sluggish over the next few months.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index fell 1 percent over the past month to 104.7. Higher prices and weak wage growth has limited buying, as the index is 2.2 percent below its level from a year ago.

The five-year recovery from the Great Recession has been uneven, such that historically low mortgage rates have failed to propel buying back to usual levels. Price increases going back to 2013 have led to fewer homebuyers, while many families have lacked the income to save for down payments. Investors making all-cash offers on homes have also begun to retreat, reducing the total number of sales.

Pending sales are a barometer of future purchases. A one- to two-month lag usually exists between a contract and a completed sale. The Realtors project that 4.94 million existing homes will be sold this year, down 3 percent from 5.09 million in 2013. Analysts generally associate sales of roughly 5.5 million existing homes with a healthy market. August contracts fell in all four geographical regions — Northeast, Midwest, South and West

— compared to the prior month. The index had registered overall gains in four of the previous five months. Combined with homebuilders catering to higher-income buyers instead of the mass market, the contracts index points to trivial improvements in home sales in September.

"We hope this lost ground will be recovered gradually, but with investors disappearing from the market and homebuilders gaining market share from private sellers, it will take time," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. The housing rebound started to struggle in the middle of 2013. Mortgage rates started to rise from historic lows, even though they remain below their historic averages. Fierce winter storms delayed construction and slowed foot traffic at open houses at the beginning of 2014. Sales, however, never quite showed much strength during the summer buying season because wage growth has been so modest coming out of the downturn.

Purchases of existing homes fell 1.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.05 million in August, the Realtors said last week. Sales fell from a July rate of 5.14 million, a figure that was revised slightly downward. New-home sales did show greater strength in August, but they continue to be below the 1990s pace of more than 700,000 sales a year. □



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US Financial Front:

America's consumer spending up 0.5 percent in August

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans boosted spending by a healthy amount in August, offering welcome evidence that the economy is on solid footing heading into the final quarter of the year.

Consumer spending in August rose 0.5 percent from the previous month after showing no gain in July, the Commerce Department reported Monday. It was the best result since spending also expanded 0.5 percent in June.

Helped by higher wages and salaries, income rose a modest 0.3 percent in August, slightly faster than a 0.2 percent July increase. The acceleration in spending added to signs that the economy is sustaining strength in the current July-September quarter. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity, and the lackluster showing in July had raised concerns about whether the economy would retain the momentum it built in the spring after a harsh winter.

Analysts noted that the spending growth was the

strongest in six months after the effects of inflation were removed.

"The August rebound on

Jr., director of consumer economics at HIS Global Insight. "Consumers are holding up and this holiday

help boost incomes.

"With incomes starting to rise a little faster, the outlook for consumer spend-

ing," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

The saving rate fell slightly to 5.4 percent of after-tax income in August. That was down from a saving rate of 5.6 percent in July, which had been the highest monthly rate since December 2012.

Inflation was well contained during the month, with an inflation measure tracked closely by the Federal Reserve showing no change after a 0.1 percent July increase. Over the past 12 months, this measure of inflation is up just 1.5 percent, well below the Fed's 2 percent target.

About half of the spending growth came from a big jump in car sales in August. That helped push durable goods purchases up 1.8 percent in August after no change in July. Sales of nondurable goods fell 0.3 percent, a decline that likely reflected falling gas prices. Spending on services including utilities and rent rose 0.5 percent in August.



Frances Gurley shops at a Family Dollar store in Wilmington, N.C. The Commerce Department released its August report on consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, on Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

(AP Photo/The Star-News, Matt Born)

the spending front was broad based and driven by better than expected back-to-school spending and surging auto sales," said Chris G. Christopher

retail sales season is looking significantly brighter compared to last year." Economists also said the stretch of solid gains in employment this year should

ing on everything, including housing, is brighten-

Macy's holiday hiring up 3.6 pct

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

Macy's plans to hire about 86,000 seasonal holiday workers nationwide to bolster its stores, call centers and distribution hubs. That number represents a 3.6 percent increase from a year ago.

The department store chain, which also operates Bloomingdale's, said Monday that the growth is being fueled by its expanding online business. This year, about 10,000 of the total 86,000 seasonal workers will be based in eight distribution center across the country. Last year, that figure was 7,000, the company said.

A store's hiring plans can indicate its expectations for the holiday shopping

season, which accounts for 20 percent of the retail industry's annual sales, according to the National Retail Federation.

The hiring plans by retailers so far this year suggests rising optimism about the holiday season.

A string of retailers as well as the shipping companies UPS and FedEx have said they plan to boost holiday hiring this year.

UPS was caught off guard last year by spiking online orders, particularly from Amazon.com.

After announcing plans to hire 55,000 seasonal workers, UPS hired 30,000 more. The company this year said it would be hiring 95,000 people to handle the load. FedEx plans to hire more than 50,000 seasonal work-

ers, or 10,000 more than last year. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest private employer, plans to hire 60,000 temporary workers, nearly a 10 percent increase over last year.

Kohl's plans to hire more than 67,000 seasonal workers, a 15 percent increase over last year. It expects to hire an average of 50 associates per store, up 25 percent from a year ago.

Still, some merchants say they'll keep their holiday hiring steady with last year's level.

Target Corp. said it will hire 70,000 seasonal workers, even with 2013.

Shares of Macy's Inc., based in Cincinnati, are down slightly in premarket trading, part of a broader sell-off in U.S. markets.

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Supreme Court same-sex ruling likely in June

ADAM LIPTAK

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - There are lots of open questions about the road the Supreme Court justices will take to a final decision about whether the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. But one thing seems clear: The answer will arrive in June.

The endgame started Monday morning. At their first private conference of the term, the justices were scheduled to consider, among many other things, seven petitions urging them to hear appeals from decisions striking down bans on same-sex marriage.

In an unusual move, the same-sex couples on the winning side of those cases joined their adversaries in asking the Supreme Court to settle the question, nationally and once and for all.

The justices face complicated choices about which case to accept, and when. They could announce their choices as soon as this week and hear arguments as soon as January.

Or they could sort and sift and wait for other courts to rule. The last time the court heard cases on same-sex marriage, in 2013, they were argued in March. The last argument session of the term is in April.

The justices could hear a single case or all of them. They could schedule one hour of arguments or several. They could ask for separate arguments on various legal theories.

So many variables, but one bottom line: "I think the court is going to give a definitive answer this term,"

said Irving L. Gornstein, the executive director of Georgetown's Supreme Court Institute.

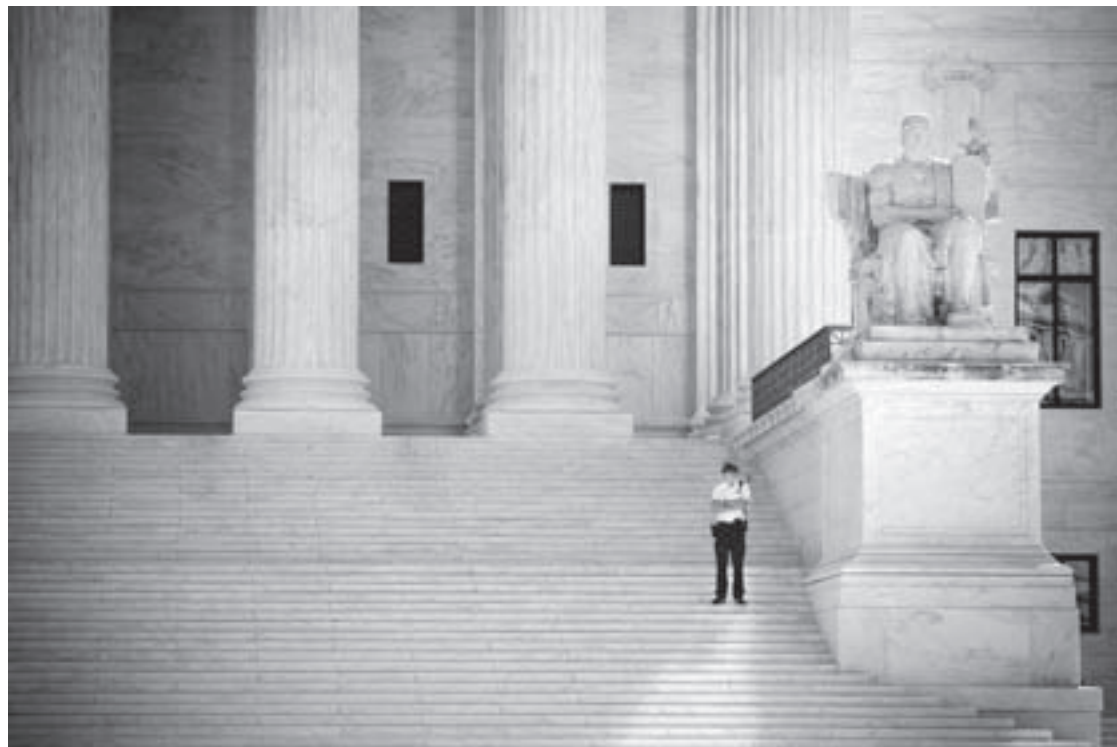
The justices are not starting from scratch. They immersed themselves in the legal issues surrounding same-sex marriage last year, although they ended up ducking the question of what the Constitution had to say about it. Why, then,

Justice William J. Brennan Jr. "It's inconceivable."

Yet the biggest cases seem to land at the end of June, just before the court's summer break. In 2013, for instance, the three final days of the term felt like the judicial equivalent of sweeps week on network television. Monday: affirmative action. Tuesday: voting rights. Wednesday: gay

ered 7,219 cases from 1946 to 2013, it turned out to be surprisingly hard to show with data what everyone knows from experience.

The question is not, after all, whether any particular case is more likely to be decided late in the term - more than 30 percent of the court's decisions are issued in June and more than half of those in the last



The U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington. There are lots of open questions about the road the Supreme Court justices will take to a final decision about whether the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage, but one thing seems clear: the answer will arrive next June, because the biggest cases always seem to land just before the court's summer break. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

will it most likely take the whole term to render a decision this time?

The justices often say that decisions are issued as soon as the opinions are ready, and former Supreme Court law clerks confirm this.

"I can't think of an instance, certainly during my term, that the court sat on an opinion when it was done," said Geoffrey R. Stone, a law professor at the University of Chicago who served as a clerk to

rights. The answer may be as simple as human nature. "The court uses as much time as they have to decide the really important cases," said Deanne E. Maynard, a lawyer with Morrison & Foerster who served as a law clerk to justices Lewis F. Powell Jr. and Stephen G. Breyer.

The end-of-term crunch for big cases is the subject of a new study to be published in The Duke Law Journal. Although the study consid-

week of the month.

The question, rather, is whether big cases are disproportionately likely to come late. That requires, for starters, an objective definition of significance. The study used several measures, including coverage on the front page of this newspaper, the number of friend-of-the-court briefs filed and how often the decision was cited in later Supreme Court opinions. □

Court-ordered anti-smoking ads see challenges

M. FELBERBAUM

AP Tobacco Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) —

The nation's largest tobacco companies are challenging court-ordered advertisements requiring the cigarette makers to say they lied about the dangers of smoking.

The so-called corrective statements are part of a case the government brought in 1999 under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in 2006 that the nation's largest cigarette makers concealed the dangers of smoking for decades and has since ordered them to pay for the statements in various advertisements in newspapers, as well as on TV, websites and cigarette pack inserts.

The companies involved in the case include Richmond, Virginia-based Altria Group Inc., owner of the biggest U.S. tobacco company, Philip Morris USA; No. 2 cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., owned by Winston-Salem, North Carolina-based Reynolds American Inc.; and No. 3 cigarette maker Lorillard Inc., based in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In a brief filed Monday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the companies argue that the corrective statements would require them to "shame and humiliate themselves by confessing to past misconduct and by branding themselves as liars." □

Ahmadzai sworn in as Afghan President

ROD NORDLAND

© 2014 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, the former World Bank technocrat and prominent intellectual, on Monday became the first modern leader of Afghanistan to take office in a peaceful transfer of power.

His inauguration as president came under a dark cloud, however, dogged by fraud allegations that were so serious he was forced to accept a power-sharing arrangement with his opponent, the official runner-up, Abdullah Abdullah. Even that deal nearly collapsed at the last minute, as Abdullah threatened to pull out of the inauguration ceremony over a series of disputes, including an unseemly fight over office space in the presidential palace.

In what has been a characteristic of the six-month wrangle over the Afghan presidential elections, representatives of both camps met late into the night to iron out their differences so that they could present a united front to the country at an inauguration attended mostly by low-level delegations from Afghanistan's international supporters, including the United States, which sent two of President Barack Obama's advisers along with U.S. Ambassador James B. Cunningham and the U.S. military commander, Gen. John F. Campbell. Pakistan was apparently the only country to send a head of state, President Mamnoon Hussain, despite the deeply strained relations between the two neighbors.

In the end, Abdullah attended the inauguration. As soon as Ahmadzai took the oath of office, he issued a decree appointing Abdullah the chief executive of his government. Both men must soon begin the difficult process of agreeing on Cabinet ministers and other positions on the basis of "parity," according to a U.S.-brokered agreement they signed on forming the national unity government.

There were hopeful notes as well. Ahmadzai spoke at length in his inaugural address about the need to fight corruption and to bring more women and young people into the government. He struck an immediate contrast with his predecessor, Hamid Karzai, by saying that his wife, Rula, a Lebanese, would take part in public life.

"My wife has worked a lot for refugees and will continue working for them," he said. Rula Ahmadzai was in the audience as well, whereas Karzai's wife was almost never seen in public.

Despite a reputation for intellectual arrogance, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai struck a humble note. "I'm your leader, but I'm not better than you, so if I make any mistake you should hold me accountable for it," he said. He also told the country's judicial authorities not to hesitate to prosecute his own relatives if the need ever arises. Ahmadzai won a June 14 runoff election against Abdullah, with 55 percent of the vote to Abdullah's 45 percent, but Abdullah and his supporters cried foul. He had won the original April 6 election with 45 percent of the vote to Ahmadzai's 31 percent in a crowded field of contenders, and accused his opponent of fraud.

Despite the concerns around election wrangle, the transfer of power was unique in Afghanistan's modern history, and Karzai said he was fulfilling his oft-stated ambition of handing power to a successor democratically and peacefully. "I'm very grateful to Allah to give me the power to hand over the power to the new president today," Karzai said at the inauguration ceremony.

While there was no doubt the transfer of power was peaceful - aside from a bomb blast outside the Kabul International Airport that reportedly killed four people - the democratic nature of the election is likely to be debated for years to come. □



Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai arrives for his inauguration at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sept. 29, 2014. Ahmadzai, former World Bank technocrat, became Afghanistan's new president Monday, but not without a power-sharing agreement with the runner-up, Abdullah Abdullah, after election fraud allegations.

(Omar Sobhani/Pool via The New York Times)

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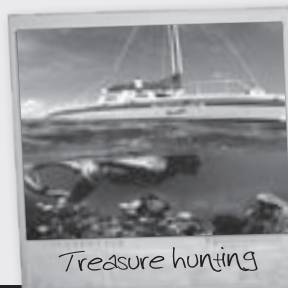
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A Young Pro-Russian rebel stands in front of shooting targets after training in the town of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014. Eastern Ukraine has suffered the worst violence in more than a week as fighting between pro-Russian rebels and government troops in the region killed at least 12 people and wounded over 30, officials said Monday.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

12 killed in east Ukraine shelling

LAURA MILLS
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Eastern Ukraine has suffered the worst violence in more than a week as fighting between pro-Russian rebels and government troops in the region killed at least 12 people and wounded 32, officials said Monday. Col. Andriy Lysenko told journalists in a briefing in Kiev on Monday that at least nine troops had been killed in a day and 27 had been wounded.

Meanwhile, the city council of Donetsk said in a statement published online that at least three civilians were killed and five wounded in overnight shelling of a residential area in the northern part of the city, where fighting has centered on the government-held airport. Throughout the day in Donetsk, regular explosions could be heard coming from the north of the city. Violence has continued

despite a cease-fire declared on Sept. 5. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has been at pains to insist to a skeptical audience at home that his peace plan is working and said last week that he believed "the most dangerous part of the war" is over.

Since fighting began in April, the conflict has claimed at least 3,500 lives. On Sept. 20, representatives of Russia, Ukraine, and the rebels signed another agreement that would require both sides to remove all heavy artillery from the frontline, creating a buffer zone that would allow the cease-fire to be better enforced.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin said that the situation in east Ukraine was "anything but satisfactory."

"The elementary question of the cease-fire is not yet cleared up, still less the future status and coopera-

tion between the Luhansk and Donetsk regions and the Ukrainian central government," Merkel said. "There is no protection of the border along the entire Luhansk and Donetsk region—no control, no buffer zones, and all of that is the minimum condition for us to be able to consider revoking sanctions. Unfortunately, we are a very long way from that."

The EU imposed several rounds of sanctions on Russian companies and individuals for their role in the east Ukraine conflict.

Kiev and the West have repeatedly asserted that Moscow has fueled the separatist insurgency by providing it with arms and personnel, something Russia denies.

On Sunday, in the second-largest Ukrainian city, Kharkiv, nationalists tore down an enormous statue of Vladimir Lenin to cheers from the crowd. □

US-led coalition airstrikes pound 4 Syrian provinces

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-led coalition air raids targeted towns and villages in northern and eastern Syria controlled by the Islamic State group, including one strike that hit a grain silo and reportedly killed civilians, activists said Monday.

Washington and its Arab allies opened their air assault against the extremist group last week, going after its military facilities, training camps, heavy weapons and oil installations. The campaign expands upon the airstrikes the United States has been conducting against the militants in Iraq since early August.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said coalition forces hit Islamic State group facilities overnight in Aleppo, Raqqa, Hassakeh and Deir el-Zour provinces. It said there were casualties, including civilians, but did not have exact figures.

One of the strikes hit a grain silo in the extremist-held town of Manbij in Aleppo province, setting it ablaze, the Observatory and the Aleppo Media Center activist group said. Another activist collective, the Local Coordination Committees, also reported what it said were coalition air raids on Manbij.

Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said the strike on the grain silo killed civilians, but he didn't have an exact number.

"They killed only civilians there, workers at the site. There was no ISIS inside," he said, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group. The airstrikes "destroyed the food that was stored there."

There was no immediate comment or confirmation of the strikes from the U.S. or its allies.

In Deir el-Zour province, a strike overnight attributed to the coalition hit the entrance to the Conoco gas plant, Syria's largest, according to the Observatory. It said the facility itself was not damaged.

More raids Monday morning struck the town of Tel Abyad on the Syria-Turkey border, according to a resident on the Turkish side on the frontier.

Mehmet Ozer told The Associated Press by telephone that the raids hit an abandoned military base and an empty school, sending pillars of smoke and dust into the air. He said Islamic State fighters cleared out of the military base about three or four months ago.

"They (the coalition) must not have fresh intelligence," Ozer said.

Two shells from the fighting on the Syrian side of the border landed on Turkish soil in the town of Suruc, an AP journalist on the frontier said. Turkey's military moved tanks away from the army post in the area, positioning them instead on a hill overlooking the border.

The Islamic State group has seized control of a huge chunk of Syria and neighboring Iraq, and has declared the establishment of a self-styled caliphate ruled by its strict interpretation of Shariah law. □



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UK Conservatives rally troops after sexting sting



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, makes his keynote address to the annual Conservative Party conference at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, England, Monday Sept. 29, 2014. Osborne said working age benefits will have to be frozen for two years, in a fresh assault on welfare spending. Osborne told the Conservative Party conference that it was unfair that increases in state help outstripped pay rises since the start of the recession.

(AP Photo/PA, Stefan Rousseau)

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's governing Conservatives were struggling to focus attention on their economic policies Monday after a government minister sent an explicit photo to a tabloid journalist posing on

As trial ends;

Prosecutors slam Karadzic as liar

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Prosecutors called former Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic a liar in closing remarks at his genocide trial on Monday, saying he lacks any credibility in denying responsibility for the atrocities committed on a massive scale while he was in charge.

Prosecutor Alan Tieger said Karadzic, 69, should be convicted and imprisoned for life, the heaviest punishment possible at the U.N. Yugoslav Tribunal.

Karadzic was president of the breakaway Bosnian Serb Republic during the

Twitter as a young party supporter.

Brooks Newmark resigned as minister for civil society after learning that the recipient of a suggestive snapshot of himself wearing paisley pajamas was a male reporter for the Sunday Mirror tabloid, rather

than a young woman named Sophie.

Newmark, who is married with five children, accepted responsibility for his misfortune, telling television network ITV: "I have been a complete fool. I have no one to blame but myself." But some colleagues ac-

1992-1995 Bosnian War that left 100,000 dead.

His responsibilities included ultimate oversight of the army commanded by Gen. Ratko Mladic, who is also on trial for genocide in The Hague.

Karadzic says he is innocent of any wrongdoing and was unaware of the slaughter of more than 7,000 Muslim men and boys by Bosnian Serb forces at Srebrenica, Bosnia, in 1995 — the worst massacre in Europe since World War II.

Leading his own defense, he is expected to deliver his closing remarks Wednesday.

Tieger said Karadzic pub-

licly "bragged at the time about the painstaking steps he was taking" to violently remove non-Serbs from parts of Bosnia to create an "ethnically pure" Serb mini-state. Karadzic now denies that, Tieger said, promoting a "revisionist history" and "blaming those who did his dirty work."

Karadzic is charged with 11 crimes in all, including genocide for Srebrenica and for the ethnic cleansing of many towns at the start of the war in 1992.

He also is charged with murder and persecution for the shelling and sniper campaign that terrorized the citizens of Sarajevo during a lengthy siege.

cused the newspaper of entrapment.

Several other Conservative lawmakers said they also had been approached on Twitter by someone purporting to be a 20-something party PR worker.

One of them, Mark Pritchard, said he would complain to police and Britain's press regulator about the newspaper's behavior.

The Sunday Mirror said its subterfuge was justified because the investigation into lawmakers' behavior on social media was in the public interest.

The scandal was one of two unwelcome surprises overshadowing the Conservatives' autumn conference in the central English city of Birmingham, where

ministers are setting out policies ahead of an election in May.

Another Conservative legislator, Mark Reckless, announced Saturday he was defecting to the small but growing United Kingdom Independence Party, whose populist anti-European Union stance is winning over some Conservative voters. Reckless is the second Tory lawmaker to announce he is quitting his parliamentary seat to run as a candidate for UKIP, which currently has no legislators in the House of Commons. Reckless' action and Newmark's resignation are making it harder for Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives to gain headlines for their economic policies.

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Neighborhood reborn amid Puerto Rico decline

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Laura Feliciano was scouting locations for a new restaurant in the Puerto Rican capital when she discovered she was priced out of the upscale waterfront districts that were her first choice. Instead, she set up several blocks inland on a grungy street lined with discount stores and pawn shops.

Feliciano named her new restaurant and bar "Pa'l Cielo," a Puerto Rican saying that translates as "To Heaven," but she was far from it in the Santurce neighborhood. Prostitutes and drug dealers hissed to prospective customers from darkened corners, and diners insisted on being escorted back to their cars, sometimes to find their vehicles had been broken into.

Feliciano returned to her native Puerto Rico from Los Angeles in search of an affordable place to open a business, almost gave up. "We thought about closing so many times because we would have felt responsible if something happened," she recalled of the early years, referring to her clients' safety.

But Feliciano persevered, and her patience has been rewarded. In the six years since "Pa'l Cielo" opened, the Santurce neighborhood has been a success story in Puerto Rico, which suffers from a 13.5 percent unemployment rate after eight years of economic recession.

While tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans have left to seek better opportunities abroad, a few entrepreneurs like Feliciano have

tried to make a go of it within San Juan. In Santurce, Feliciano's restaurant has been joined by dozens of other new businesses including cafes,

252 apartments, 50,000 square feet of retail space and a public park for a \$114 million expansion to the project "in the heart of Santurce," a location that

also opened a small Mexican eatery. "It's still a place where people with limited means and a strong will can make it," she said of Santurce. The neighborhood is



This photo shows an aerial view of the Santurce neighborhood in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The area turned to slums in the 1970s as people moved out to suburbs near San Juan. Many who stayed behind were immigrants, mostly from the Dominican Republic and often living in large blocks of public housing dominated by drug gangs amid surging crime in the 1990s.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

vintage boutiques and a bookstore. The renaissance also features an arts festival that draws artists and tourists from around the world. Some investors in Santurce are considerably larger than Feliciano. Among the many building projects that have moved forward in recent years is a sleek glass-and-steel tower called Ciudadela, acquired by New York real estate developer Nicholas Prouty. Despite a deep slump in the island's housing market, Prouty said at a Sept. 18 news conference that all of the building's 312 units had been sold. Puerto Rico's Economic Development and Commerce Department says Prouty plans to add

would not have been trumpeted in the past. Prouty says he sees promise in the neighborhood of about 100,000 people because of recently declining crime, undervalued properties and an influx of young people. "Santurce has acquired a sort of coolness, a favored spot for San Juan's new generation," Prouty said at the news conference. "My partner and I saw the possibilities, immediately." Feliciano, 39, says her "Pa'l Cielo" restaurant has attracted celebrities such as actor Benicio del Toro and members of the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop group Calle 13. She was so confident about the area's future that she has

bounded on the north and east by the upscale Atlantic Coast districts of Condado, Ocean Park and Isla Verde, areas familiar to tourists visiting Puerto Rico. To the west lies the largely middle-class area of Miramar and the approach to picturesque Old San Juan, a colonial district of cobblestone streets and the seat of local government. The area turned to slums in the 1970s as people moved out to suburbs near San Juan. Many who stayed behind were immigrants, mostly from the Dominican Republic and often living in large blocks of public housing dominated by drug gangs amid surging crime in the 1990s. □

Mosquito-borne virus disrupts life through Jamaica

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaica's health minister said Sunday that the government is doing all it can to combat a newly arrived mosquito-borne virus that is increasingly disrupting life and cutting productivity on the Caribbean island.

In a national address carried on television and radio, Fenton Ferguson said the chikungunya virus is spreading across Jamaica and "everyone is susceptible."

"We are aware of the impact this is having on productivity and attendance at school and work and ask employers to be compassionate and assist their staff through this difficult period," Ferguson said.

It's a rarely fatal but typically very painful viral illness that has advanced rapidly through the Caribbean and parts of Latin America after local transmission started in the tiny French dependency of St. Martin late last year, likely introduced by an infected air traveler. Apparently hardest hit has been the Dominican Republic, with half the cases reported in the Americas.

In recent days, the mosquito-borne virus with no cure or vaccine has been increasingly sickening people in Jamaica, perhaps most severely in the southeastern parish of St. Thomas. "Schools, business, churches, farms and entire communities in St. Thomas continue to report ever mounting cases of persons ill with chikungunya, some communities with over half the population affected," said opposition official Delano Seiveright before the health minister's speech. □



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representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at the Holiday Inn Resort. According to the couple, the reason the keep returning to Aruba year after year is because they love the people and the amazing food on the island! In the photo you can admire the honorees together with Lucien of the Holiday Inn Resort. □





Blame Game

Phil Mickelson saves best shot for his captain

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

GLENEAGLES, Scotland

(AP) — Phil Mickelson delivered his most memorable shot after the Ryder Cup was over.

Not with a club, but with his words.

Mickelson knew this Ryder Cup was a lost cause before it was over. Even though he won his singles match over Stephen Gallacher, another European victory looked imminent. That's what led Mickelson to say in a television interview, "We had a great formula in '08 and I don't know why we strayed from it. I don't know why we don't ever try going back to it." He was talking about the only Ryder Cup the Americans have won in the last 15 years.

And he was just getting warmed up.

It's rare to hear even a remote reference to criticism from a player at Ryder Cup. Mickelson took it to an unprecedented level when he delivered his message in the closing news conference, sitting alongside his 11 teammates with captain Tom Watson right in the middle.

Mickelson blistered one captain by praising another.

He spoke in detail about Paul Azinger's pod system — three groups of qualifiers that filled out their pod by telling Azinger whom they wanted as a captain's pick. They ate together. They practiced together. They never played with anyone outside their pod, and they were next to each other in every lineup.

Continued on page 20

MAJOR ERA



Kershaw 1st to lead majors in ERA 4 straight years

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw delivers during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs, Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, in Chicago.
Associated Press
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Serena avoids bagel, then cruises at China Open

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Serena Williams narrowly avoided a bagel against Spanish qualifier Silvia Soler-Espinosa, then won 13 of the next 15 games to pull out a 7-5, 6-2 victory Monday in the first round of the China Open.

Williams looked lethargic and flat-footed at the start, pushing the ball back without much pace or direction and occasionally shanking groundstrokes several feet out. After only 15 minutes, she had already dropped serve three times and fallen behind 5-0.

Just as quickly as she gave up such a big lead, however, Williams turned it around. In the next game, the 18-time major winner saved a set point and broke Soler-Espinosa to finally get on the board.

"I didn't want to lose 6-love," Williams said. "I just started fighting. I was like, just let me at least try to break here."

Soler-Espinosa had another set point on Williams' serve in the following game, but the American saved it with a cross-court backhand winner at the net and cruised the rest of the way. Williams routinely doles out the bagels in matches, but she's rarely on the receiving end of one. The last player to win a 6-0 set against her was another Spaniard, Anabel Medina Garrigues, in Madrid last year. Williams came back to win that match, too, 6-3, 0-6, 7-5. After the match, Williams said she hadn't been sure she'd be healthy enough to play in Beijing after pulling out of a match against Alize Cornet with dizziness and nausea last week at the Wuhan Open. "I just started hitting a couple days ago, taking it day by day. Finally I decided I'm here, I may as well see what happens," Williams said. "I'm feeling a lot better. I have more energy. I look back. Like my eyes aren't as dead as they were."

It was the latest health issue to sidetrack Williams this year. She also pulled out



Serena Williams of the United States returns a shot to Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain during their first round of China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, China, Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

of a Wimbledon doubles match after looking completely out of sorts in her warm-up and hitting four straight double-faults in the match. She later blamed a viral illness.

On the men's side, U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic struggled with his consistency against Chinese wildcard entry Bai Yan, ranked 462nd in the world, but held on to win 6-3, 6-4.

Cilic said he's still getting used to the feeling of being

a Grand Slam champion and dealing with all the pressure and attention that brings.

"Most of the guys at the top are dealing with that already for a few years. It's a bit new thing for me, so I'm learning day to day," he said. "Most important for myself is also not to put too many expectations on my own shoulders."

Fifth-seeded Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria also advanced with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3

win over Fernando Verdasco of Spain.

Other women's winners included ninth-seeded Ana Ivanovic, who took advantage of eight double-faults by Belinda Bencic to beat the Swiss teenager 6-2, 6-1, and U.S. Open semifinalist Peng Shuai of China, who defeated Zhang Kailin 6-4, 6-1. In the only upset of the day, 10th-seeded Jelena Jankovic lost to Cornet 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Fourteen-time major winner

Rafael Nadal also returned to the court for the first time since injuring his wrist in July to play a doubles match. He and partner Pablo Andujar lost to Tomas Berdych and John Isner 7-5, 4-6, 10-4.

Nadal will play his opening singles match on Tuesday against Richard Gasquet, while top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who has a 19-0 record in Beijing, faces Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain. □



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Kershaw 1st to lead majors in ERA 4 straight years

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to lead the major leagues in earned run average in four straight years, while Houston's Jose Altuve and Colorado's Justin Morneau won their first batting titles.

Kershaw's 1.77 ERA was the lowest in the National League since Greg Maddux's 1.63 for Atlanta in 1995.

"I'm not really thinking about that right now," said Kershaw, who went 21-3 to lead the major leagues in wins and already has turned his tunnel-vision focus toward the postseason.

Kershaw became the first to lead the NL in ERA in four consecutive seasons since the Dodgers' Sandy Koufax strung together five years in a row from 1962-66.

"It says a lot about his work ethic and not being satisfied," said Magic Johnson, one of the Dodgers' owners.

Seattle's Felix Hernandez won his second AL ERA title, pitching 5 1-3 scoreless innings against the Los Angeles Angels and leaving about 10 minutes after the Mariners were eliminated from playoff contention by Oakland's win at Texas.

Hernandez started the weekend with a 2.34 ERA but it dropped to 2.18 Saturday when Major League Baseball Executive Vice President Joe Torre changed a hit to an error in Hernandez's previous start against Toronto, making four runs unearned. Hernandez finished at 2.14, beating Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox (2.17). "I was disappointed in my last start against Toronto,"



Houston Astros Jose Altuve (27) hits a double against the New York Mets during the third inning of an inter-league baseball game Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014 at Citi Field in New York. The mets defeated the Astros 8-3.

Associated Press

Hernandez said. "Today I had a different mind to go out there and do what I was capable to do, just throw strikes."

Originally left out of the starting lineup by the Astros on Sunday, Altuve talked his way in and went 2 for 4 against the New York Mets to win the AL batting title at .341.

Altuve began the day with a three-point lead over Detroit's Victor Martinez, who went 0 for 3 and wound up at .335.

Altuve became Houston's first batting champion, leaving the Seattle Pilots-Milwaukee Brewers, Arizo-

na and Tampa Bay as the only teams without at least one.

"I think this is way better than just sitting on the bench and waiting for something," Altuve said. "If you want to win something, you've got to win it on the field."

Morneau, who sat out Saturday, pinch-hit in the eighth inning and grounded out, leaving him at .319 — the lowest average for a batting champion in either league since Tony Gwynn hit .313 for San Diego in 1988. Pittsburgh's Josh Harrison was second at .315 following an 0-for-4 day

against Cincinnati.

"I'm most proud that I was consistent all season," Morneau said. "Sometimes you get hot for a while and hit .450, but I think I was consistent all season and I focus and concentrated on that."

Playing home games in Denver's thin mile-high air, Colorado won its second straight batting title and ninth in 22 years. Andres Galarraga (1994), Larry Walker (1998, '99 and '01), Todd Helton ('00), Matt Holliday ('07), Carlos Gonzalez ('10) and Michael Cuddyer ('13) also won batting titles with the Rockies.

A year after serving a 50-game suspension for violating the major league drug program, Nelson Cruz hit 40 home runs for Baltimore and won his first AL home run title and the Orioles' second straight following Chris Davis' 53 long balls last year. Giancarlo Stanton topped the NL with 37 despite missing Miami's last 17 games after he was hit in the face by a pitch.

Mike Trout of the Angels had 111 RBIs, the fewest for an AL leader in a non-shortened season since Baltimore's Lee May had 109 in 1976. The Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez led the NL with 116.

Milwaukee's Jonathan Lucroy set the season record for doubles by a catcher with 46, one more than Texas' Ivan Rodriguez in 1996. With 53 doubles overall, Lucroy became the first player who was primarily a catcher to lead his league. Detroit's David Price struck out eight in the Tigers' AL Central-clinching win over Minnesota on Sunday to lead the AL with 271, two more than Cleveland's Corey Kluber. Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto struck out seven against the Pirates on Sunday to tie Washington's Stephen Strasburg for the NL lead at 242.

Kluber and the Los Angeles Angels' Jered Weaver shared the AL wins lead at 18 with Detroit's Max Scherzer, who led the majors in 2013 with 21.

Dee Gordon of the Dodgers led the NL with 64 steals and Altuve topped the AL with 56.

Seattle's Fernando Rodney had a major league-high 48 saves. Atlanta's Craig Kimbrel had 47, the fourth straight year he's topped the NL or shared the lead. □

Blame Game

Continued from page 17

And then he raved about how Azinger had a game plan for every occasion, which suggested that Watson did not.

Watson never looked at Mickelson as he spoke. When asked to reply, the 65-year-old captain said he had a different philosophy and sneered at the notion of a pod.

This might have been the most intense match of the week.

Even when the Europeans lost at Valhalla under Nick Faldo, they closed ranks in the news conference. Lee Westwood and Sergio Garcia both were benched for the first time in their careers. They are not fans of Faldo. And yet they took the blame that day by saying they should have played better.

Mickelson didn't call out Watson by name. He just criticized his heavy-hand-



Phil Mickelson of the U.S. speaks during a press conference after Europe won the 2014 Ryder Cup golf tournament at Gleneagles, Scotland, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014.

Associated Press

ed leadership style.

It needed to be said.

And as bad as it made Watson look — and Mickelson, for that matter — it was the right time and the right place. The message was directed more at the PGA of America, which selected Watson without player input, than it was at the captain. Given the stage, his comments will not be forgotten.

Watson wanted to be captain again, even though it had been 21 years since he was captain, or even attended a Ryder Cup. After watching the meltdown at Medinah, he was tired of the Americans losing. Watson saw a team with a silver spoon that was in dire need of an iron fist.

"This guy is tough as nails. We all know that," European captain Paul McGinley

said. "He was going to be strong. He was going to be a very strong captain, and he was going to lead it his way."

That might have worked in 1993. It doesn't work now. Azinger's all-inclusive style was key in winning the Ryder Cup. Davis Love III had a similar style at Medinah, and the Americans built a 10-6 lead going into the final day. If not for Justin Rose making a 45-foot putt, and Ian Poulter making just about everything, the Americans would have won that cup, too.

Watson talked about keeping it simple. He saw his main roles as the captain's picks and the pairings, and neither merited a passing grade.

It wasn't all on Watson, who didn't hit a single shot. And it's not a complete failure by the Americans. Europe always has a great team, and now it has great players. Winning the Ryder Cup was never going to be easy.

Watson returns to Scotland next year at St. Andrews for his final appearance in the British Open, which he has won five times. He is revered in Scotland, and a bad week at Gleneagles is not going to change that. This Ryder Cup loss will be forgotten. It's not like the Americans losing is an anomaly.

As for Mickelson?

He came across as disingenuous and disrespectful for going public with what could have been handled in private.

It was a big risk for Mickelson, who is wildly popular with fans but can be as polarizing as Tiger Woods. Mickelson opened himself up to massive criticism for calling out Watson on such a big stage. And it's not as if Mickelson can lean on a great Ryder Cup record. A five-time major champion, he has been on eight losing teams.

Mickelson doesn't speak from the hip. This was calculated. He knew the risk.

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In The Pits

Tony Stewart searching for his new normal

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

KANNAPOLIS, North Carolina (AP) — Slowly and somberly, Tony Stewart is trying his best to find his new normal.

He may never again be the "Smoke" the racing world knew before Aug. 9, the night a sprint car he was driving struck and killed Kevin Ward Jr. at an upstate New York dirt track. The three-time NASCAR champion was fiery on the track, so quick-witted he never lost a verbal spat, and a larger-than-life personality throughout the garage.

Stewart, without a doubt, was the heart and soul of NASCAR.

Now, some seven weeks after Ward's death, the driver affectionally referred to as "The People's Champion" is struggling to find his footing. Stewart spent three weeks in seclusion at his Indiana home, and though he returned to racing Aug. 31, he's been a shell of his former self.

He's incapable of hiding when he's having a tough day,

he wears his emotions all over his body, and he's not yet comfortable sliding back into his old, familiar routines. Stewart loved racing and women and a good practical joke, and now struggles to relax enough to even smile in public.

It made Monday a huge step for Smoke, who held his first news conference since a grand jury decided last week not to charge him in Ward's death. Aside from a statement he read when he returned to the track at Atlanta and an interview last week with The Associated Press, Stewart had remained silent since Ward's death.

But he knew avoiding the questions was one of the many things preventing him from getting on with his life.

So he sat down in front of a sterile gray backdrop at

Stewart-Haas Racing wearing jeans, sneakers and a shirt void of any sponsor logos. He took 29 questions over 36 minutes about his grief, his change in priorities and his future in racing.

He tried twice at small jokes — the room laughed — but Stewart didn't smile. He can't grasp what's appropriate right now, has no idea if anything will ever be the same.

"I honestly think every day, things will get better, and things will get easier. And I think it will for Kevin's family as well. Time heals," he said. "I don't know that it will ever be normal again, but (I'll) find a place to settle into and (I'll) do the best (I) can."

"Whether I ever get back to (normal) or not, hopefully through this I will somehow be a better person. That's all I can hope for."

When he was done, Stewart exited out the back and headed to nearby Charlotte Motor Speedway for a two-day test with his three SHR teammates.

That's the normal he needs. Stewart needs to be with his team, needs to return to a routine.

After four below-average races in his return, he finally turned a corner Sunday at Dover — his 14th-place finish was his best since the middle of July.

"We've still got some work to do," crew chief Chad Johnston radioed Stewart on the final lap, "(but) P-14 is a far cry from what we've had the last couple weeks. So we'll build on that and go to next week."

Did a more focused effort have anything to do with the weight of a possible criminal charges being lifted four days earlier? Stewart doesn't know. He doesn't think so, but he likely doesn't realize how miserable he's looked outside of his race car.

He says both his heart and his head are into his job, but Sunday was the first race in which it showed. He



In this Sept. 13, 2014, file photo, NASCAR driver Tony Stewart (14) looks out from his garage during a practice for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill. Associated Press

doesn't think a 14th-place finish is "anything to brag about," but realizes his wins will come in curious shapes and sizes going forward.

"I think at this point in my career as a driver, when you make that decision to put the helmet on, you have to know in your heart that you're ready to go, you're ready to do it," he said.

Now he must navigate his way back into society, something he's avoided for seven weeks. He admitted he's "let my team down" in not being engaged with teammates Kevin Harvick,

Kurt Busch and Danica Patrick as he's grieved, and a schedule once so packed with appearances and autograph sessions has been wiped clean.

It's made time stand still on too many days, and after facing a room full of reporters on Monday, he believed he was ready to resume the off-track commitments that come with his job.

"I think that's another step of making forward progress, getting back to trying to resume what was the best of a normal life before this," he said.

Nobody knows if he'll ever be his old self again. Everyone hopes a version of the old Smoke will come back, but it's also possible any changes will be for the better.

Although his charity, compassion and generosity rank at the top of NASCAR, Stewart could be prickly, moody and mean. He kept people at arm's length, made poor personal choices and never seemed capable of finding the happiness he craves.

Perhaps the new Smoke will indeed be different, but in a good way. □

LeBron: "Nowhere near" decision on 2016 Olympics

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James doesn't know whether he'll take another shot at Olympic gold.

James said Monday he has not yet decided whether he'll play for Team USA at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, where could win a third straight gold medal.

Following Cleveland's third training camp practice, James was asked about his plans for the Rio Games following reports that Oklahoma City superstar Kevin



In this Aug. 12, 2012, file photo, United States' LeBron James (6) dunks against Spain during the men's gold medal basketball game at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Associated Press

Durant has committed to playing for the American team again. "I'm nowhere

near there," James said. "I haven't even thought about it too much. □ Ob-

Twins fire manager Ron Gardenhire after 13 seasons

JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The

Minnesota Twins have fired manager Ron Gardenhire after 13 seasons that included at least 92 losses in each of the last four years. The move was made Monday with one season left on Gardenhire's contract, ending the second-longest active tenure in the major leagues behind Mike Scioscia of the Angels. The Twins announced an afternoon news conference with Gardenhire and general manager Terry Ryan.

Gardenhire played an integral role in the franchise's renaissance, guiding the Twins to their first of six American League Central division titles in 2002 in his first year on the job. But Gardenhire's teams only got out of the first round once, and his postseason record was 6-21 with the last win coming in 2004.

The Twins have long been the model of stability in not only baseball but major professional sports, with only two managers over the last 28 years and two general managers over the last 20 seasons. But all the losing of late became too much to overcome.

This year, Gardenhire became just the fourth manager in the game's history



In this Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire sits in the dugout during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit.

Associated Press

to preside over at least four straight 90-loss seasons with the same team, joining Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics (nine), Zach Taylor of the St. Louis Browns (four) and his predecessor with the Twins, Tom Kelly (four). Kelly returned for one more year after his streak, and he retired after an 85-77 finish in 2001.

In an era when job security for managers is seemingly measured in months, Gardenhire's longevity has been truly unique. The outspoken and fiery Gardenhire quickly became one of the faces of the franchise,

as synonymous with the Twins as the interlocking T and C on their caps. He took over for the revered Kelly, who won two World Series championships, just as the organization was starting to regain its footing after years of bad baseball. Gardenhire clashed with some players over the years, but there was expectation and hope among the players that he would return. "Sometimes you go out and you don't play as well as you would've liked, but it's not always the staff's fault when it comes to those sorts of things," starting pitcher Phil Hughes

said. "We have to be better. That's the bottom line." Gardenhire joined the organization in 1987 and was added to Kelly's staff in 1991. His record as Twins manager was 1,068-1,039. He won the American League Manager of the Year award in 2010, the last time the Twins not only made the playoffs but had a winning record.

"As good as it gets in my opinion. Comes to the park ready to win each and every day. Kind of a players' manager," second baseman Brian Dozier said last week. "Always in good spirits. He knows the game

better than anybody I've been around. 100 percent want him back."

The contracts of Gardenhire's coaches were expiring, but some of them could be brought back. Bench coach Paul Molitor is sure to be considered as Gardenhire's replacement, but Ryan's search will spread outside the organization, too.

Ryan gave Gardenhire a two-year contract after last season, blaming himself for the roster he assembled. But this winter, the Twins spent big on Hughes and fellow right-hander Ricky Nolasco in an attempt to upgrade the rotation. Veteran catcher Kurt Suzuki was added, too, and made the All-Star team. But despite the emergence of prospects Danny Santana and Kennys Vargas, the Twins simply didn't make enough progress to avoid a shake-up. Nolasco's rough debut season and Joe Mauer's down year in the switch to first base were major disappointments, but bringing Gardenhire back for another year would not have gone over well with an increasingly frustrated fan base. Attendance in Target Field's fifth year was the lowest for the Twins since 2004. □

Keane scores twice in Galaxy's 4-0 win v Red Bulls

CARSON, California (AP)

— Robbie Keane scored twice and Landon Donovan added a goal and two assists as the Los Angeles Galaxy beat New York Red Bulls 4-0 on Sunday night.

The Galaxy regained a share of the lead in the MLS standings with Western Conference rival the Seattle Sounders after stretching their undefeated run to nine games.

Keane opened the scoring with a chip from Donovan's cross in the eighth minute and finished the scoring in the 82nd minute, beating goalkeeper Luis Robles for

his 17th goal of the season. Donovan scored Galaxy's second goal from close range in the 50th and gave the last pass for Gyasi Zardes' goal the 69th minute.

It was Donovan's 134th career assist, one short of Steve Ralston's MLS record. At Houston, Omar Cummings and Boniek Garcia scored as the hosts beat Chicago 2-0 to remain alive in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Houston is eighth in the conference, with only the top five making the playoffs. □

Kaka 1st to top \$7 million in MLS earnings

NEW YORK (AP) — Kaka is set to be Major League Soccer's highest-paid player with a base salary of \$6.6 million from Orlando City, according to figures released Monday by the players' union.

Including a prorated share of compensation not specified to a specific year, the Brazilian attacker's total earnings rise to a league-record \$7,167,500.

Orlando starts play next season, along with New York City FC. The previous MLS high for total earnings was set by David Beckham of the Los Angeles Galaxy at \$6.5 million annually during a five-year contract that ended in 2011.

Seattle forward Clint Dempsey dropped to second in total earnings at \$6,695,000, followed by Toronto midfielder Michael

Bradley at \$6.5 million and Toronto forward Jermain Defoe at \$6.18 million.

Among the American players who signed with MLS after the World Cup, midfielder Jermaine Jones has a \$3 million salary with New England and total earnings of \$3,252,500.

Defender Liam Ridgewell, who left West Bromwich Albion to sign with Portland, has a \$1.2 million salary. □

Microsoft to offer early look at next Windows

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft plans to offer a glimpse of its vision for Windows this week, as its new CEO seeks to redefine the company and recover from missteps with its flagship operating system.

Although the new software won't be formally released until next year, analysts already consider its success crucial for Microsoft and Satya Nadella, who has made mobile devices and Internet-based services priorities since becoming CEO in February.

With its tablet-like touch controls, Windows 8 had been Microsoft's answer to slumping sales in personal computers amid a rising demand for mobile devices. But the company alienated many users by forcing radical behavioral changes. Research firm IDC even blamed Windows 8 for accelerating a decline in PC sales in the first full quarter following the system's release in October 2012.

Microsoft has released updates that address some of the complaints, yet analytics firm Net Applications estimates that five out of six Windows users are still using something other than Windows 8.

The next major release will be the company's chance to regain its footing and show that Microsoft can embrace mobile devices without sacrificing the traditional computing experience.

"It's one of the most important launches that they will ever have," said Patrick Moorhead at the research firm Moor Insights and Strategy. "It's very important they get it right."

Microsoft is expected to give an early look at some new features Tuesday during an event the company has billed as a discussion about "what's next for Windows." The company hasn't said what it plans to call the new Windows version.

The San Francisco event is geared toward the business market. Separate



In this April 2, 2014 file photo, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella gestures during the keynote address of the Build Conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

sessions focused on home computer users and others will be held in the coming months. Analysts say the sessions are part of an effort by Microsoft to gather feedback and avoid the stumbles it made with Windows 8.

Even after two years of declining sales of personal computers, software licenses for Windows are a key element of a business segment that contributes roughly 21 percent of Microsoft's annual revenue — second only to sales of the company's commercial software.

Windows 8 introduced a host of new features for personal computers, including touch-screen functions that are now common with tablets.

Many PC users, however, found the redesigned interface difficult to navigate, particularly with keyboards and mice on devices without touch screens. They also missed familiar controls, such as the "start"

button that was a longtime component of previous Windows systems.

"It was a miscalculation on the part of Microsoft," said analyst Steve Kleynhans at the Gartner research firm. "You can't force people into a situation where everything they know changes."

Still, experts say Microsoft has good reason to design software that attempts to broaden its appeal to smartphone and tablet users.

Although the company still dominates the PC industry, that market is barely growing. Meanwhile, Microsoft has gained little traction in a booming smartphone market dominated by Apple's iPhones and devices running Google's Android software.

Nadella has said he wants the next version of Windows to be a "single, converged operating system for screens of all sizes."

Microsoft currently has three main systems —

Windows 8 for traditional computers and tablets, Windows Phone 8 for cell phones and Xbox for its gaming console.

That makes more work for developers, who must create three versions of apps if they want to reach people on multiple devices. By unifying the underlying systems, software developers will be able to create apps for the various devices more easily.

Consumers will also be able to switch devices more easily and avoid having to buy the same apps multiple times.

The new Windows is also expected to emphasize more software apps and services that are hosted on the Internet, or "in the cloud." Nadella has made the transition to cloud computing a priority.

But Microsoft will need to make the transition to a new Windows less jarring for the average user Moorhead said. That might include a return to a more

traditional "start" menu for desktops, for example. Microsoft restored a limited version of the "start" button when it released a Windows 8.1 update last year. The company also has hinted that it may restore a key component of Windows: the ability to run apps in windows that can overlap and be adjusted to any size. For newer apps in Windows 8, resizing was limited to how much horizontal space each app takes on the screen.

Windows 8 offered some improvements in security and efficiency, but corporations balked at using the software because they didn't want to spend time and money teaching employees how to use it, Moorhead said.

Now, as Google and Apple are starting to pitch their own operating systems to business users, he added, Microsoft needs to convince business customers that the next version of Windows is worth using. □

Stocks head lower, following drops overseas

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP)—Concerns

"You have a ton of risks that have brought back in the market's focus," said Brad

soared 26 percent following reports that Japan's Soft-Bank Corp. is in talks to buy

without a major fall. "I can't tell you how many calls we're getting now asking, 'Is this it? Is this the big one?'" he said.

One reason for the recent turbulence is that the stock market appears "priced for perfection," McMillan said. It's an increasingly common saying among investors, and it means the S&P 500 is so high that corporate profits and the economy have to keep improving just to sustain current prices. Good news isn't enough.

"The question is no longer, are we doing well? It's, are we doing even better?" McMillan said. "When you pay for perfection, anything shy of that is a disappointment."

At current prices, investors are paying \$16.69 for every dollar in company earnings, according to data from FactSet. That's 10 percent above the long-term average. "There's a certain amount of faith needed at this level," McMillan said.

Traders have pushed the stock market lower despite a string of encouraging economic news. The latest came from the Commerce Department, which reported on Monday that consumer spending rose 0.5 percent in August from the previous month. Auto sales made up about half of the increase. It was further evidence that the economy is on solid footing heading into the end of the year. □

Lenovo looks to expansion after IBM acquisition

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Lenovo Group has received U.S. and European approval to complete its acquisition of IBM Corp.'s low-end server business and plans to use it to grow faster outside its personal computer business, Lenovo's chairman said Monday.

The \$2.1 billion acquisition is due to close Wednesday following a successful review by a U.S. government security panel and European and Chinese regulators, the company said.

The IBM assets will add a "growth engine" to a growing array of businesses that include computers, mobile devices and services, chairman Yang Yu-anqing said in a telephone interview.

Lenovo, which bought IBM's PC unit in 2005, has carried out a flurry of acquisitions and launched initiatives including creating a smartphone brand to expand into faster-growing businesses.

Also this year, Lenovo bought the Motorola Mobility smartphone business from Google Inc. for \$2.9 billion.

"Our mobile business and our enterprise business will be growing even faster than our PC business," said Yang.

Lenovo has said the IBM acquisition will propel it from a No. 9 ranking among server manufacturers to No. 3 behind Hewlett Packard Co. and Dell Inc.

Lenovo, with headquarters in Beijing and in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, passed HP in 2013 as the No. 1 PC maker, though that achievement was tempered by a slow-down in demand as users shift to mobile devices.

Lenovo has said it expects mobile devices to become the bulk of its business in coming years.

In the quarter ending in June, sales of smartphones, tablet computers and other wireless technology rose 32 percent over a year earlier. □



Specialist Anthony Rinaldi works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Sept. 29, 2014. The U.S. stock market slid to start the week, following European markets lower.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

over high stock prices and global politics continued to plague markets Monday as major stock indexes ended with slight losses in another day of choppy trading. Pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, a major world financial center, added to the host of political concerns on investors' minds. It could have been worse. The Dow Jones industrial average sank 178 points in the opening minutes, a sudden drop of 1 percent, but then it climbed back.

McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial in Waltham, Massachusetts. "There's just a heck of a lot of uncertainty right now."

The Dow lost 41.93 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,071.22. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.05 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,977.80. The Nasdaq composite slipped 6.34 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,505.85.

DreamWorks Animation, the studio behind "Shrek" and "Madagascar,"

the company. DreamWorks gained \$5.82 to \$28.18. The market has turned choppy in recent weeks, flipping between solid gains and steep losses. Since hitting a record on Sept. 18, the S&P 500 has slipped 1.7 percent. Coming after a calm summer, the slide has set off a flurry of worried calls to brokerages.

John Canally, chief economic strategist at LPL Financial in Boston, said many investors think the market has gone too long

Amid rate inquiry;

Lloyds Bank fires 8 and claws back bonuses

CHAD BRAY
© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - The Lloyds Banking Group said Monday that it had terminated eight individuals and clawed back about 3 million pounds (about \$4.9 million) in bonuses after its settlement of inquiries into the manipulation of global benchmark interest rates. In July, Lloyds agreed to pay more than \$380 million to British and U.S. authorities to resolve investigations into the manipulation of rates, including one used to determine fees paid by

Lloyds related to a 17 billion pound taxpayer-backed bailout during the financial crisis. "Having now taken disciplinary action against those individuals responsible for the totally unacceptable behavior identified by the regulators' investigations, the board and the group's management team are committed to preventing this type of behavior happening again," António Horta-Osório, the bank's chief executive, said in a statement.

Lloyds said it was unable to take disciplinary action

against a number of individuals who left the company before the settlements in the summer.

In July, Lloyds, which is partly owned by the British government, admitted to criminal wrongdoing by some of its employees who sought to manipulate the London interbank offered rate, or Libor, and other global benchmark interest rates. Sixteen individuals, including seven managers, were directly involved in or aware of the various forms of Libor manipulation, Britain's Financial Conduct

Authority said at the time. Lloyds served on several panels of banks that helped set Libor rates tied to the dollar, the yen and other currencies.

As part of its resolution of the inquiry, the bank said it would pay an additional 7.76 million pounds to compensate the Bank of England for the manipulation of another, now defunct, benchmark rate, which was used to determine fees paid under an emergency funding program for financial institutions during the financial crisis. □

In tax inquiry involving Apple & Starbucks, EU pushing forward

JAMES KANTER

© 2014 New York Times

BRUSSELS - The top EU regulator is expected to take the next formal step Tuesday in an investigation into the way Ireland and other countries have helped U.S. multinationals like Apple avoid billions in taxes.

The step by the regulator, the European Commission, is being watched closely because of the attention that Apple and other major U.S. companies have drawn for the way they conduct their tax affairs.

"This investigation shows it's not just business as usual for the commission," said Andrea Biondi, director of the Center for European Law at King's College London. "It could have major repercussions outside Europe, particularly for American companies."

Apple is among the most profitable U.S. companies, but it has avoided billions in taxes through a web of subsidiaries, according to lawmakers in the United States. European authorities are concerned that countries - including the Netherlands and Luxembourg - may be offering improper tax breaks to global companies eager to deploy sophisticated tax-avoidance strategies. There are no fines in European inquiries into such cases. The commission announced the inquiry in June and investigations can take years to complete. But any eventual decision against Ireland could oblige the government in Dublin to claw back huge sums in so-called state aid to Apple. If Ireland refuses to act, the commission could sue Ireland at the Court of Justice of the European Union, the bloc's top tribunal, in Luxembourg.

Ireland vowed in June to contest the investigation, while Apple has maintained that it pays its taxes like any other business in

Ireland.

On Monday, the Irish government said in a statement that it "welcomed that opportunity to clarify important issues about the applicable tax law in this case."

The publication of details of the inquiry, set for Tuesday, will lay out the parameters of the investigation, which are expected to include an examination of transfer pricing arrangements that commonly involve the shunting of profits and losses between subsidiaries by labeling them as internal corporate payments for goods or, as is increasingly common, for copyright or patent royalties.

"We do not have any findings to communicate at this point in time," Antoine Colombani, a spokesman for the commission, told reporters Monday.

"We are in the middle of this investigation," he said, adding that the publication Tuesday was "the standard process for state aid cases."

The case, announced in June by Joaquín Almunia, the departing competition commissioner, could soon be taken over by Margrethe Vestager, the nominee to replace him. Vestager would work under Jean-Claude Juncker, a former prime minister of Luxembourg who has been selected as the next president of the commission.

Any decision to punish Ireland for inducements to Apple could be awkward for Juncker, who has been accused by his opponents of helping to turn Luxembourg into a tax haven during his nearly two decades leading the small, wealthy country.

The inquiry begun by Almunia also is examining the tax arrangements in Luxembourg for Fiat Finance and Trade, a unit of the Italian automaker Fiat, and the tax treatment of Starbucks by the Netherlands. □

Icahn weighing \$100M bid to save Trump Taj Mahal casino

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Billionaire Carl Icahn is considering spending \$100 million to save the Trump Taj Mahal casino from closing.

But the offer comes with considerable strings attached: Icahn is willing to consider the bailout "if and only if" he gets big

Resorts, presented a letter from Icahn's attorney saying the billionaire would consider bailing out the casino if the debt he owns in it were converted to equity that would give him ownership.

Icahn, who bought Atlantic City's Tropicana in 2010 in a similar manner, wants the

share the company's desire to see the Taj Mahal remain open and preserve the jobs of the company's employees," Icahn attorney Allan Brilliant wrote in a Sept. 23 letter to Trump Entertainment Resorts in response to the company's offer to hand ownership to Icahn. Failing to get the conces-



In this photo taken on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, people walk on The Boardwalk near Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. Billionaire Carl Icahn is considering spending \$100 million to save the Trump Taj Mahal casino from closing.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

givebacks from the casino workers' union, steep tax breaks from Atlantic City and county, and \$25 million in funds from a New Jersey agency, according to his attorney. In a filing to a bankruptcy court, the Taj Mahal's parent company, Trump Entertainment

city to drastically reduce the Taj's taxes, the union to give up pension and health insurance, and a state redevelopment agency to provide the \$25 million.

"Notwithstanding the fact that putting more money into the Taj is a questionable business decision, we

sions "would make it impossible to operate a viable company at this time."

The court filing made Friday paints a dismal portrait of the Taj Mahal's finances, and holds out no hope of its survival beyond November without Icahn's money and the related concessions. □

Encana buying Athlon Energy for \$5.93B

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil and natural gas company Encana is buying Athlon Energy Inc. for \$5.93 billion in an effort to boost its oil production by tapping into Texas's booming Permian Basin. Canada's Encana Corp. will also assume \$1.15 billion in debt, bringing the transaction's total value to approximately \$7.1 billion.

Encana, a major natural gas producer, has been shifting its focus from natural gas to more lucrative oil production in recent months. The Permian Basin, which stretches from Texas to New Mexico and has

long been an important oil source for U.S. drillers, is undergoing a revival thanks to new drilling techniques. It is one of the biggest new sources of oil production in the U.S., along with the Eagle Ford shale in South Texas and the Bakken formation in North Dakota.

"This transformative acquisition further accelerates our strategy and provides us with a prime position in what is widely acknowledged as one of North America's top oil plays," said Doug Suttles, Encana President & CEO, in a statement.

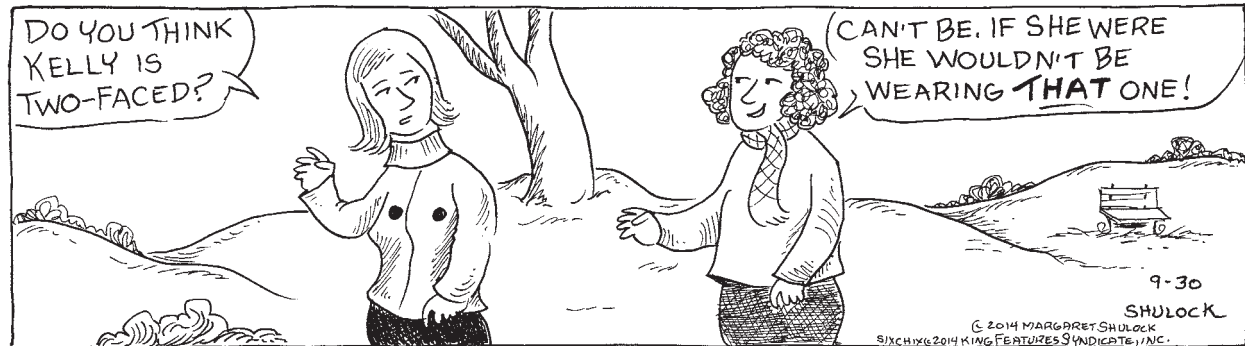
Encana will receive access to about 140,000 net acres in the Permian Basin. The company said it plans to invest at least \$1 billion of capital in the Permian Basin in 2015 and ramp up from three to at least seven rigs by the end of 2015.

Athlon shareholders will receive \$58.50 per share, a 25 percent premium to its Friday closing price of 46.73. Shares of Athlon, which is based in Fort Worth, Texas, jumped more than 24 percent in premarket trading. The deal is expected to close by the end of the year. □

Mutts



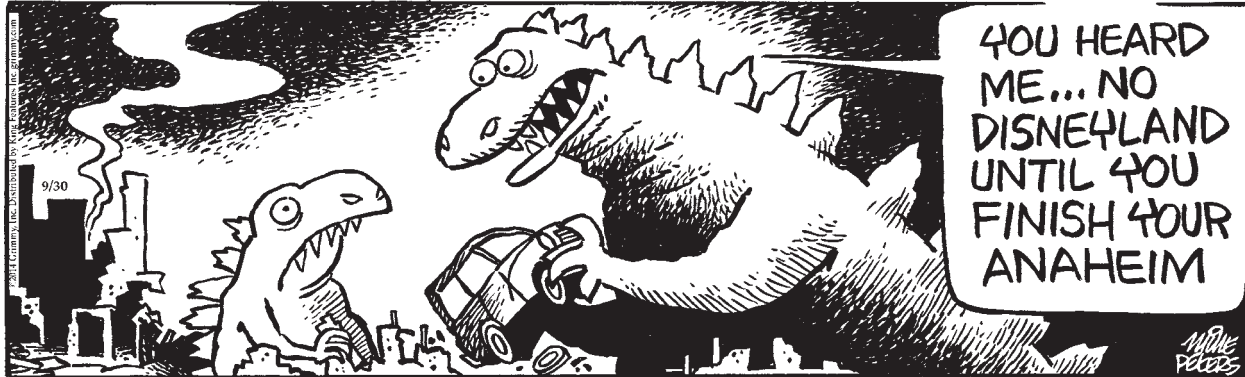
6 Chix



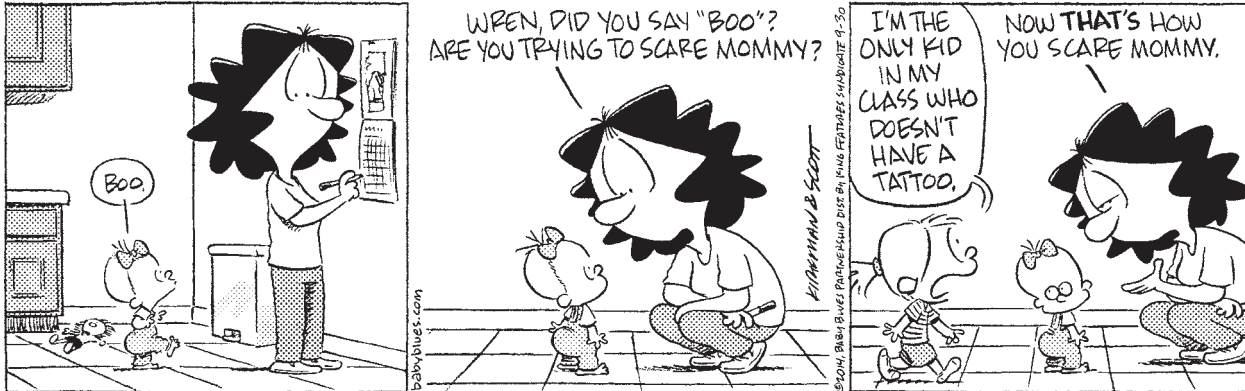
Blondie



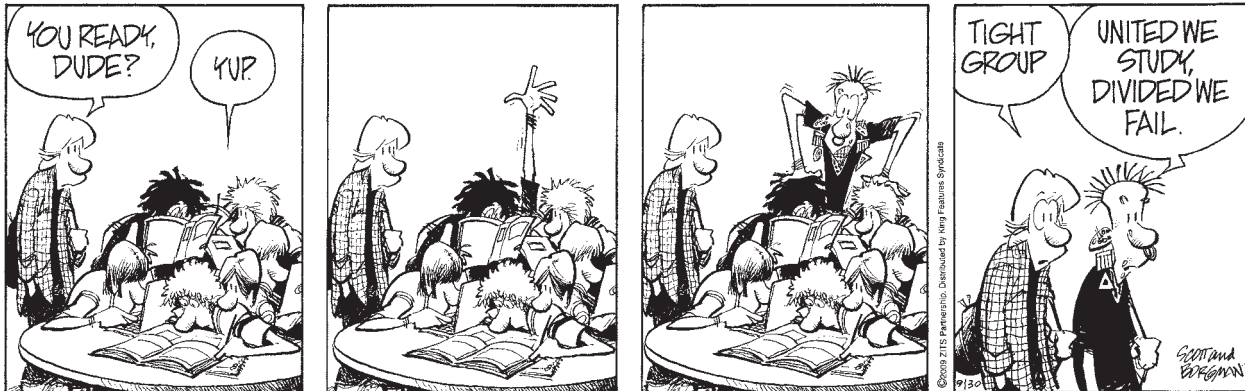
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8					2		
9	5		1			4		
				2		8	3	
	1		7			5		
4		8				9		1
	6			3		4		
7	2		6					
		3		5		2	4	
		6				9		

Difficulty Level ★★

9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

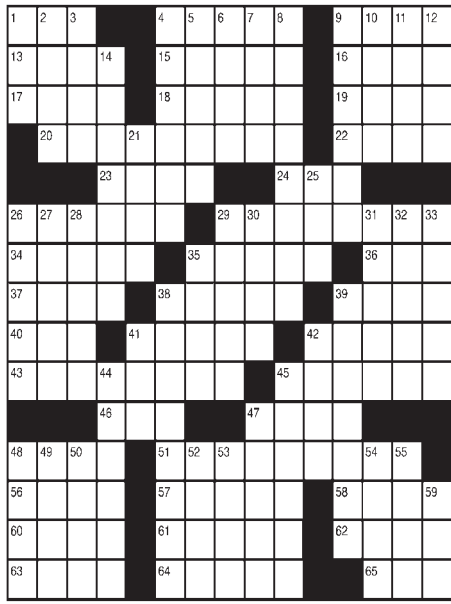
7	9	2	4	5	1	6	8	3
5	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	4
4	8	3	6	9	7	1	5	2
6	2	8	1	4	5	3	7	9
9	4	7	2	6	3	8	1	5
3	5	1	8	7	9	2	4	6
1	3	9	5	8	6	4	2	7
2	6	5	7	1	4	9	3	8
8	7	4	9	3	2	5	6	1

ACROSS

- Lively Irish dance
- Deep audible breaths
- Married lady
- Acting part
- Thief
- Brass musical instrument
- Male deer
- Jewish leader
- Had debts
- Veneration; worship
- Cereal grains
- Sticky strip
- Siesta
- Dissimilar to
- Tangiest
- Clamor
- Tree or bush
- DVD player's forerunner
- Young horse
- Hauling into court
- Ripped
- Busy ___ bee
- High points
- Phonies
- Odd
- Tendons
- Eva, to Zsa Zsa
- Pealed
- Shaping tool
- Wastes
- Tells a fib
- 1/16 of a pound
- Thrown for a ___; astonished
- Lima's nation
- Carousels and Ferris wheels
- Stench
- Go no further
- Baseball or football
- Pigpen

DOWN

- Yrb. section
- Smidgen
- Happy
- Minor injury
- Furious



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/30/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	C	T	S	U	M	P	S	D	A	N	A
U	B	O	A	T	S	A	I	L	A	G	E	D
G	L	A	R	E	U	R	G	E	Y	A	R	D
S	E	T	T	L	E	R	S	E	N	D	I	V
	A	L	L		S	P	U	R	N	E	D	
S	P	I	N	A	L	C	A	S	T	E		
M	O	O	R	E	B	E	L	S	A	B	O	T
O	U	T	S	N	E	S	T	S	M	A	D	E
G	R	A	N	T	G	A	S	E	S	B	O	A
		O	U	T	E	R	L	I	N	E	R	S
A	C	R	O	B	A	T	F	L	E	E		
G	R	A	P	E	S	P	A	S	S	W	O	R
L	A	C	E	S	N	U	B	T	E	H	E	E
O	V	E	R	E	A	R	L	A	S	I	A	N
W	E	D	S	L	Y	R	E	S	T	O	R	

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9/30/14

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 42 Discover | 50 Two minus two |
| 44 Spends all of | 52 Clever and witty remark |
| 45 Most rational | 53 Take apart |
| 47 Dale Earnhardt or Jeff Gordon | 54 Serling and Stewart |
| 48 Mont Blanc's range | 55 Chimney residue |
| 49 Eat less to lose weight | 59 Use a crowbar |

Nebraskans raise their voices in fight against Keystone XL pipeline



Neil Young performs at Harvest of Hope, a concert hosted by Art Tanderup and his wife Helen on their farm in Neligh, Neb., Sept. 27, 2014. Over the six years since the 1,179-mile crude oil pipeline that would run from Alberta province in Canada to Nebraska was first proposed, a group of Nebraska farmers, ranchers, Native Americans and city-dwelling environmentalists has held meeting after meeting to rally opposition.

(Ryan Henriksen/The New York Times)

MITCH SMITH

© 2014 New York Times

NELIGH, Neb. - From the edge of a rye field teeming with grasshoppers, Willie Nelson and Neil Young sang on Saturday in opposition to the proposed Keystone XL project, warning through lyrics that a "company wants to build a tar sand pipeline where it don't belong."

The site of the concert - a patch of farmland where 26 acres of corn were harvested early to create a makeshift parking lot - was as unlikely as the coalition of Nebraskans who have united against Keystone XL and made this state the legal and emotional center of the pipeline opposition.

"I've told them, 'You'll have to haul me out from in front of that bulldozer, because I'm going to protect this farm,'?" said Art Tanderup, who with his wife, Helen, hosted the concert. Their land in the rolling hills of northeast Nebraska would be directly along the pipeline route.

It has been six years since TransCanada, an energy company, first proposed this 1,179-mile crude-oil pipeline to southern Nebraska from Alberta. In that time, a group of Nebraska farmers, ranchers, Native Americans and city-dwelling environmentalists has held meeting after meeting to rally opposition to the pipeline and forge a

delicate trust as it worked toward a common goal. Activists have scored some successes. After they complained loudly about the initial route, which would have gone through the ecologically delicate Sandhills region, TransCanada agreed to shift the pipeline eastward.

Even with that change, the debate is far from settled. Leaders of the opposition movement now want the pipeline project scrapped altogether, citing concerns about TransCanada and fears that a spill would irreparably harm the Ogallala Aquifer, the underground water source used to irrigate cropland and fill taps across a wide portion of the heartland.

Because Keystone XL would cross an international border, President Barack Obama will have the final say on whether it is built. He has put off his decision for years, most recently signaling that he would allow the State Department to continue studying the issue while awaiting a decision from the Nebraska Supreme Court.

This month, Nebraska's top judges heard a group of landowners' arguments challenging the state's approval process for the route. □

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Studies fault warming in much of 2013 wild weather

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists looking at 16 cases of wild weather around the world last year see the fingerprints of man-made global warming on more than half of them.

Researchers found that climate change increased the odds of nine extremes: Heat waves in Australia, Europe, China, Japan and Korea, intense rain in parts of the United States and India, and severe droughts in California and New Zealand. The California drought, though, comes with an asterisk.

Scientists couldn't find a global warming link to an early South Dakota blizzard, freak storms in Germany and the Pyrenees, heavy rain in Colorado, southern and central Europe, and a cold British spring.

Organized by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, researchers on Monday published 22 studies on 2013 climate extremes in a special edition of the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

"It's not ever a single factor that is responsible for the extremes that we see," said NOAA National Climatic Data Center director Tom Karl said. "Natural variability is always part of any extreme climate event."

For years, scientists said they could not attribute single weather events — like a drought, heat wave or storm — to man-made global warming. But with better computer models and new research, in some cases scientists can see how the odds of events



In this Aug. 20, 2014 file photo, a woman takes a walk under the scorching sun in Tokyo.

Associated Press

increase — or not — because of climate change. Other researchers question the usefulness and accuracy of focusing on single extreme events.

The editors of the 108-page compilation of studies wrote that people and animals tend to be more affected by extreme weather than changes in averages, so they pay attention to it. The public often connects extreme events to climate change, sometimes wrongly, so scientific analysis like this "can help

inform the public's understanding of our changing environment."

The report seeks to find how much and how man-made warming has influenced the weather, said NOAA research meteorologist Martin Hoerling, an editor of the report.

The influence on Australia's hottest year in more than

a century is glaring, the report's editors said.

"It's almost impossible" to explain Australia's hot 2013 without climate change, said Peter Stott of Britain's meteorology office, another report editor.

The most complicated issue is the California drought, the only extreme that has continued into this year.

Three teams studied that state's record drought in different ways. Two teams couldn't find a link to global warming and water and air temperatures, but the third from Stanford University looked at high pressure patterns in the air and found a connection.

A high pressure system parks over the northern Pacific during California's winters, which is normally when it gets rain. Higher atmospheric pressure usually means less storms and rain. The pressure was so strong last year that study lead author Daniel Swain called it "a ridiculously resilient ridge." The Stanford team ran computer models with and without man-made warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas. The warming from greenhouse gases showed that the rain-blocking ridge of high pressure was more than three times more likely with man-made factors than without, Swain said.

"The report as a whole is a reflection that more and more future climate extremes around the globe will be attributed to human-caused climate change," said University of Arizona climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn't part of the research. In two extreme events — the British cold spring and the September northern Colorado rains — the report found global warming actually decreased their likelihoods and yet they happened. □

U.N. experts say world's mangrove forests at risk

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — U.N. experts are warning that the world's mangrove forests are being destroyed at a more rapid rate than other forest ecosystems because of land conversion, development and pollution.

A U.N. Environment Program report presented Monday said mangroves are disappearing three to

five times faster than other forests.

It said by 2050, southeast Asia could potentially lose 35 percent of the mangroves it had in 2000.

Described in the report as one of the world's most threatened ecosystems, mangrove forests mitigate global warming by trapping vast quantities of carbon that would otherwise

be released into the atmosphere.

UNEP officials and scientists are holding a three-day conference in Athens, seeking solutions to major marine environmental problems such as the accumulation of plastic debris in the seas, collapsing fish stocks and ocean acidification. □



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Artists take aim at U.S. gun violence

STACEY PLAISANCE

Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The wall of a downtown New Orleans art gallery has been riddled with bullet holes.

It's not another act of brazen gun violence but rather a thought-provoking work of art. In each hole is a bullet casing, its back painted with the tiny portrait of a child under the age of 6 killed in New Orleans gunfire.

The persistence of urban gun violence has inspired more than 30 artists from across the country to contribute to the exhibit, "Guns in the Hands of Artists."

The artists took the stocks, barrels, cylinders and other parts of dismantled guns slated to be destroyed through a city buyback program and transformed them into art.

The exhibit is opening Oct. 4 at the Jonathan Ferrara Gallery in New Orleans, for decades one of America's deadliest cities.

Although murder rates are down from recent years,

shootings persist.

A pizza delivery driver was recently shot to death during a delivery. Over the summer, a drive-by shooting left two people dead and several others injured, including a woman and her two young children. Another shooting killed a woman on the city's famous Bourbon Street.

New Orleans artist Sidonie Villere said she feels a mix of fear and anger for her hometown. She soaked five gun cylinders in hydrogen peroxide, salt and vinegar, to make them corrode — a representation of what she calls an "emotional corrosion" surrounding guns. "I'm hoping when people see the piece, they see that there's some kind of breakdown," she said.

Artist John Barnes built a wooden sculpture in the shape of a historic New Orleans shotgun-style house with a real shotgun, sawed in half, running through its center. It includes signs "Get Off My Property," "Turn Down the Music" and "We Are Here Now"

— taking a shot at gentrification, vigilante-ism and "Stand Your Ground" laws. Ferrara said the exhibit is not anti-gun. It is meant to foster dialogue surrounding guns. The first "Guns in the Hands of Artists" was held in 1996, around the time the city's murder rate was on the rise. The exhibit was organized by Ferrara and New Orleans native artist Brian Borrello.

Borrello is contributing two pieces to the new exhibit, including a 9 mm pistol with a clip that arcs 7 feet in a circular shape that Borrello said shows "endless war." Nearly two decades after the first exhibit, gun conversations now include the names Ferguson, Columbine, Sandy Hook and Aurora.



This undated photo provided by artist Brian Borrello shows his piece titled "Open Carry," which will be part of an exhibit opening Oct. 4, 2014 at the Jonathan Ferrara Gallery in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Amanda Bynes arrested in L.A.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former actress Amanda Bynes was arrested on suspicion of driving while under the influence of a drug, authorities said Monday.

Bynes, 28, was stopped early Sunday morning by a California Highway Patrol officer after she stopped in the middle of an intersection in the Van Nuys neighborhood of Los Angeles around 4 a.m. on Sunday. The former child star was determined to be under the influence of an unidentified drug after being evaluated at a nearby police station, the CHP said in a statement.

The release states that Bynes, who has had a series of driving-related arrests, was cooperative but appeared disheveled when she was taken into custody. Bynes was released hours later after posting \$15,000



In this June 5, 2011 file photo, Amanda Bynes arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles. Associated Press

bail. A phone message left for her criminal defense attorney, Richard Hutton, was not immediately returned.

The one-time actress remains on probation for a 2012 case filed after she clipped a Los Angeles County sheriff's patrol car and was arrested for driving under the influence. Bynes pleaded no contest to alcohol-related reckless driving in February.

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Billy Hayes of 'Midnight Express' turns to stage

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The other day, Billy Hayes was rehearsing a scene from his one-man show when he was interrupted by the director.

It was too static, worried Jeffrey Altshuler. There's not enough activity.

"You mean locked in one place and you can't move?" cracked Hayes. "Yes, I know that feeling."

Hayes certainly does: His long ordeal in a Turkish prison was turned into the film "Midnight Express," forever scaring people crossing international borders. Hayes is 67 now, but hasn't lost his sense of humor.

"What's not to be happy about? I'm healthy, I'm free. My wife loves me. Nobody's beating my feet. I'm doing theatres," he said. "This is the top. Everything else is gravy."

Next month marks the 44th anniversary since Hayes was arrested while trying to smuggle 2 kilos of hashish onto a plane in Istanbul. He spent five brutal years behind bars before he took the "midnight express," slang for busting out.

But Hayes hasn't completely escaped, returning again and again to that time. He wrote a memoir and his story was turned into a screenplay by Oliver Stone that often veered from the facts. Hayes also published his prison letters and a book about his post-prison life. His tale has even been turned into a ballet.

Now he's turned it into a 70-minute stage show, which comes to the Barrow Street Theatre following a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In the show, Hayes recounts his story alone, with just a few projections, a stool and a bottle of water.

"I had misgivings at first. I was like, 'No, I'm still talking about this and people are sick of hearing it,'" said Hayes, whose business card is decorated with a little train track. "What I discovered was there's a story that resonates still with people."

"It's my little, particular story

but it affects everyone. Everyone's gone through their own stuff. Mine was just a little bit more compact and dramatic. But people relate to their own crises and being as down as you can be and still finding a way out to come out, finding the light."



this undated image released by JT PR, Billy Hayes, who spent five, brutal years behind bars after trying to smuggle hashish onto a plane in Istanbul, rehearses for his one-man show, "Rising the Midnight Express with Billy Hayes."

Associated Press

Hayes, who built a career as an actor and director, is fit and trim — a result of years of yoga — and quick to laugh (He jokes that his education includes "five years of extracurricular work at Istanbul U.") But he can also instantly go back

to the terror of Sagmalcilar prison.

"There's a line I have to be careful of because this stuff is so personal and so powerful that I don't want to fall down and break down on the stage," he said. One thing still too raw is reciting

ern stagecraft. "This is his story and it's powerful stuff. He just needs to tell it," said Altshuler.

Hayes' story has been referenced in everything from "Family Guy" to "Entourage." It even inspired the long-running series

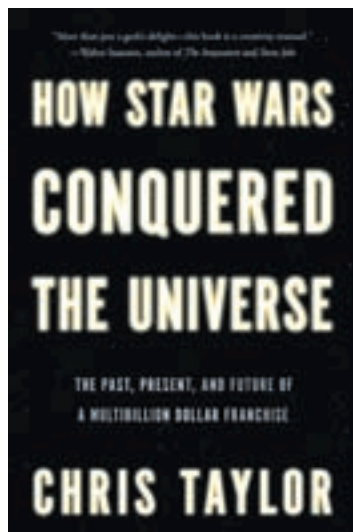
The one-man show serves in some ways as a corrective to the 1978 film, which had a completely invented and bloody escape, and a made-up, incendiary speech that Hayes' character gives to the Turkish court. In the years since prison, Hayes has advocated for yoga — "In jail, yoga can help free you," he said — and against the criminalization of marijuana, which he argues has created an underground of violence and corrupted the legal system. "I'm not advocating smoking pot. Do it or don't do it. But don't put people in jail for plants that come out of the ground," he said. "While we wait for sentencing changes, men and women's lives are slowly being sucked out. Their teeth are rotting out of their heads and their families are disintegrating."

Hayes has since returned to Turkey — he attended a security conference there in 2007 with round-the-clock security — and holds no ill will toward its people and calls Istanbul "a magical city."

"There are still people who say, 'Billy, we'll never go to Turkey. We saw your movie,'" he said. "It's like, 'No! Go there. You'll love it. Just don't get arrested. You won't like the prison, I guarantee you that.'" □

"Locked Up Abroad" on the National Geographic Channel. Today, people still come up to him and whisper about sweaty moments at customs. "Who else can they confess to who's been made a bigger fool than me?" he asked.

Author delivers 'Star Wars' tour de force



This book cover image released by Basic Books shows "How Star Wars Conquered the Universe: The Past, Present, and Future of a Multibillion Dollar Franchise," by Chris Taylor.

Associated Press

JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

Chris Taylor, deputy editor of the social media website Mashable, lets his geekdom shine with "How Star Wars Conquered the Universe: The Past, Present, and Future of a Multibillion Dollar Franchise." Taylor tries to accomplish several things: He examines how the "Star Wars" franchise successfully invaded popular culture, and he uses examples of how the films have influenced people's lives.

One example is the story of Albin Johnson. He was told he wouldn't walk again after a car acci-

dent. He became depressed after a series of operations, including the amputation of a foot, but a friend helped him with various distractions. They discussed their mutual love of "Star Wars" and built stormtrooper outfits. Over time, others with a similar passion joined them. Today the group is called the 501st Legion. They have worked with George Lucas and are considered the only legitimate stormtroopers when it comes to conventions and appearances in full regalia.

Taylor also delivers a biography of Lucas, who

fought for years to bring his vision to the screen. He explores the making of the first film in detail, covering studio battles, numerous drafts and the actors who signed onto the project but thought they were making a bad movie. However, from the moment "Star Wars" opened on just a few screens, lines at ticket windows began forming around the block.

Taylor's research is staggering, and even fans who believe they know all there is to know about the film franchise will find much to learn — and savor. □

The Good Order



DAVID BROOKS
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When she was writing, Maya Angelou would get up every morning at 5:30 and have coffee at 6. At 6:30, she would go off to a hotel room she kept - a small modest room with nothing but a bed, desk, Bible, dictionary, deck of cards and bottle of sherry. She would arrive at the room at 7 a.m. and write until 12:30 p.m. or 2 o'clock.

John Cheever would get up, put on his only suit, ride the elevator in his apartment building down to a storage room in the basement. Then he'd take off his suit and sit in his boxers and write until noon. Then he'd put the suit back on and ride upstairs to lunch.

Anthony Trollope would arrive at his writing table at 5:30 each morning. His servant would bring him the same cup of coffee at the same time. He would write 250 words every 15 minutes for 2 1/2 hours every day. If he finished a novel without writing his daily 2,500 words, he would immediately start a new novel to complete his word allotment.

I was reminded of these routines by a book called "Daily Rituals: How Artists Work," compiled by Mason Currey.

The vignettes remind you how hard creative people work. Most dedicate their whole life to work. "I cannot imagine life without work as really comfortable," Sigmund Freud wrote.

But you're primarily struck by the fact that creative people organize their lives according to repetitive, disciplined routines. They think like artists but work like accountants. "I know that to sustain these true moments of insight, one has to be highly disciplined, lead a disciplined life," Henry Miller declared.

"Routine, in an intelligent man, is a sign of ambition," W.H. Auden observed.

Auden checked his watch constantly, making sure each task filled no more than its allotted moment. "A modern stoic," he argued, "knows that the surest way to discipline passion is to discipline time; decide what you want or ought to do during the day, then always do it at exactly the same moment every day, and passion will give you no trouble."

People who lead routine, anal-retentive lives have a bad reputation in our culture. But life is paradoxical. In situation after situation, this pattern recurs:

order and discipline are the prerequisites for creativity and daring.

This is true on so many levels. Children need emotional and physical order so they can go off and explore. A parent's main job is to provide daily predictability and emotional security.

Communities need order to thrive and cooperate since where there is chaos and disorder there is distrust and withdrawal. The main job of local leaders is to provide the basic infrastructure of security: roads, police, honest judges and orderly schools.

The world needs order, too, a set of assumed norms and routines that all nations adhere to. You can't have freedom, trust, democracy and self-determination when thugs like Vladimir Putin of Russia are rampaging across borders and monsters like the Islamic State are killing innocents.

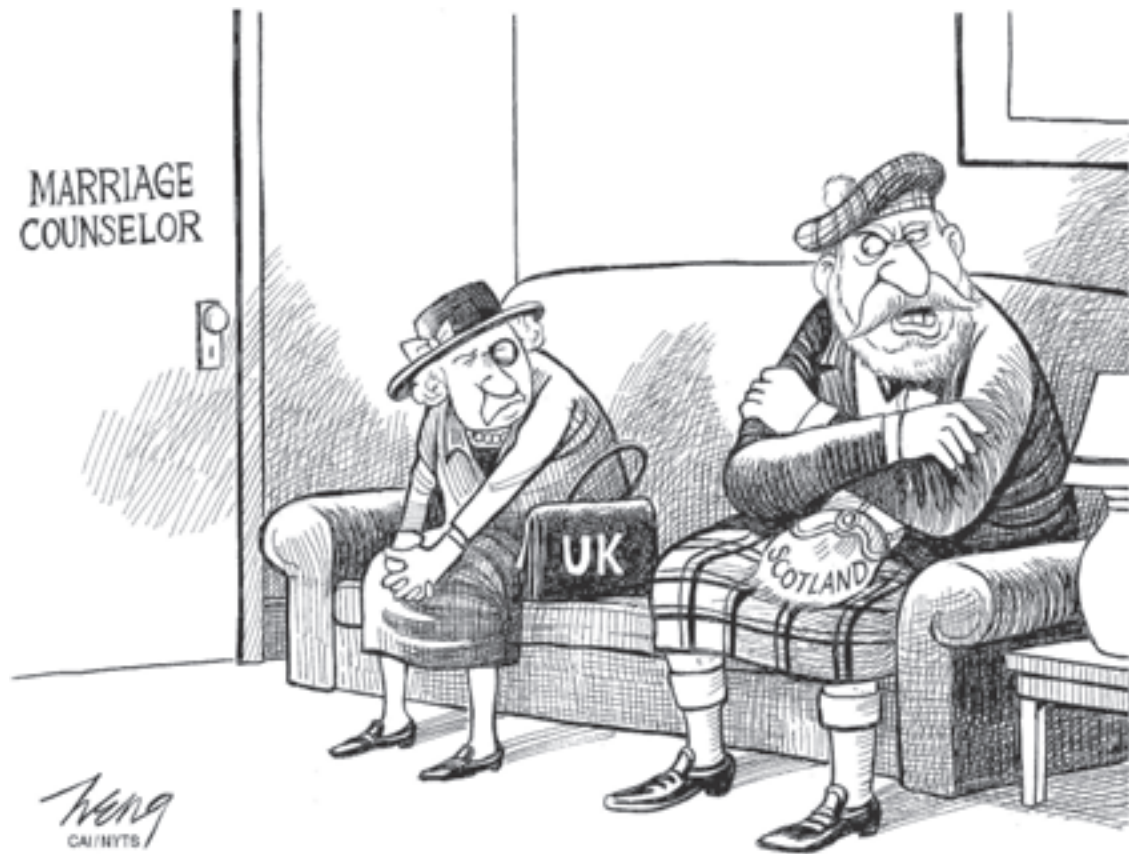
The world's superpower has a hard and unpleasant duty. The United States is obligated to organize coalitions to impose rule of law - to beat back the wolves and maintain that order.

Building and maintaining order - whether artistic, political or global - seems elementary, but it's surprisingly hard. Writers have to go to amazing lengths to impose order on their own unruly minds - going off to basement storage rooms. W. Somerset Maugham refused to work in a room with a view. He liked facing a bare wall. It requires toughness of mind and rigid discipline to properly serve your own work.

Preserving world order is even harder. President Barack Obama showed that kind of toughness in his U.N. address this week (you knew I was going to make this leap). It was one of the finest speeches of his presidency.

During his public life, Obama has hit the high notes of poetic romance - his 2008 campaign. He has also hit some prosaic notes of caution, realism and inaction. But this speech blended the two tones. It put tough-minded realism at the service of a high calling.

The speech was about defending the world order against enemies like Islamic State and Putin. Breaking with past emphasis, he acknowledged that sometimes you have to use military might to fight off a military threat. He acknowledged that power-hungry thugs aren't appeased if you try to show them how nonthreatening and reasonable you are. Obama cast off his cloak of reluctance and more aggressively championed democracy than he has recently. He was direct and forthright. We'll see what action comes behind the words. But the larger point is that the order of global civilization, like the order in a poet's mind, is something that has to be fought and imposed every day. The best life is a series of daring excursions from a secure and orderly base. □



The Show-Off Society



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Liberals talk about circumstances; conservatives talk about character.

This intellectual divide is most obvious when the subject is the persistence of poverty in a wealthy nation. Liberals focus on the stagnation of real wages and the disappearance of jobs offering middle-class incomes, as well as the constant insecurity that comes with not having reliable jobs or assets. For conservatives, however, it's all about not trying hard enough. The House speaker, John Boehner, says that people have gotten the idea that they "really don't have to work." Mitt Romney chides lower-income Americans as being unwilling to "take personal responsibility." Even as he declares that he really does care about the poor, Rep. Paul Ryan attributes persistent poverty to lack of "productive habits."

Let us, however, be fair: Some conservatives are willing to censure the rich, too. Running through much recent conservative writing is the theme that America's elite has also fallen down on the job, that it has lost the seriousness and restraint of an earlier era. Peggy Noonan writes about our "decadent elites," who make jokes about how they are profiting at the expense of the little people. Charles Murray, whose book "Coming Apart" is mainly about

the alleged decay of values among the white working class, also denounces the "unseemliness" of the very rich, with their lavish lifestyles and gigantic houses.

But has there really been an explosion of elite ostentation? And, if there has, does it reflect moral decline, or a change in circumstances?

I've just reread a remarkable article titled "How top executives live," originally published in Fortune in 1955 and reprinted a couple of years ago. It's a portrait of America's business elite two generations ago, and it turns out that the lives of an earlier generation's elite were, indeed, far more restrained, more seemingly if you like, than those of today's Masters of the Universe. "The executive's home today," the article tells us, "is likely to be unpretentious and relatively small - perhaps seven rooms and two and a half baths." The top executive owns two cars and "gets along with one or two servants." Life is restrained in other ways, too: "Extramarital relations in the top American business world are not important enough to discuss." Actually, I'm sure there was plenty of hanky-panky, but people didn't flaunt it. The elite of 1955 at least pretended to set a good example of responsible behavior.

But before you lament the decline in standards, there's something you should know: In celebrating America's sober, modest business elite, Fortune described this sobriety and modesty as something new. It contrasted the modest houses and motorboats of 1955 with the mansions and yachts of an earlier generation. And why had the elite moved away from the ostentation of the past? Because it could no longer afford to live that way. The large yacht, Fortune tells us, "has foundered in the sea of progressive taxation."

But that sea has since receded.

Giant yachts and enormous houses have made a comeback. In fact, in places like Greenwich, Connecticut, some of the "outsized mansions" Fortune described as relics of the past have been replaced with even bigger mansions.

And there's no mystery about what happened to the good-old days of elite restraint. Just follow the money. Extreme income inequality and low taxes at the top are back. For example, in 1955 the 400 highest-earning Americans paid more than half their incomes in federal taxes, but these days that figure is less than a fifth. And the return of lightly taxed great wealth has, inevitably, brought a return to Gilded Age ostentation.

Is there any chance that moral exhortations, appeals to set a better example, might induce the wealthy to stop showing off so much? No.

It's not just that people who can afford to live large tend to do just that. As Thorstein Veblen told us long ago, in a highly unequal society the wealthy feel obliged to engage in "conspicuous consumption," spending in highly visible ways to demonstrate their wealth. And modern social science confirms his insight. For example, researchers at the Federal Reserve have shown that people living in highly unequal neighborhoods are more likely to buy luxury cars than those living in more homogeneous settings. Pretty clearly, high inequality brings a perceived need to spend money in ways that signal status.

The point is that while chiding the rich for their vulgarity may not be as offensive as lecturing the poor on their moral failings, it's just as futile. Human nature being what it is, it's silly to expect humility from a highly privileged elite. So if you think our society needs more humility, you should support policies that would reduce the elite's privileges. □

A Regal Course's Scruffy American Cousin

JOHN BRANCH

© 2014 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Among the things said last week at the golf course at Gleneagles, but not the famous one in Scotland where the Ryder Cup is being played, were these:

"We were on the fourth tee when three guys came from the basketball court, and one pulled out a gun." "Kids are so tired, they don't even climb the fence anymore to steal golf balls.

world, San Francisco's Gleneagles is barely known in its own neighborhood. It is folded into a hillside of vast John McLaren Park next to the dilapidated Sunnydale public housing project, the city's largest, part of San Francisco's crime-fatigued southeastern corner.

For many years, local golfers kept removing the sign for Gleneagles, not wanting others to discover their secret. These days, a small green sign leading into a

lyptus is the San Francisco Bay, striped by the San Mateo Bridge in the distance. There is a pub but no pro shop. (There is a sign for a pro shop, though, over an empty nook.) On one wall of the pub is a framed poster from 2010 proclaiming Gleneagles one of the 20 best nine-hole courses in the country. (Golf World ranked it No. 17.) Across the room, sharing a wall with an Olympia beer mirror, is a map of the King's

"I don't think anyone really cared," said Joe Alvarez, who has played the course regularly for 50 years, often several times a week. "It was like putting lipstick on a pig."

The course was designed by Jack Fleming, a protégé of the course architect Alister MacKenzie, and opened in 1962. A par 36, it is about 3,000 yards of tilted lies. Fairways are skinny, lined by eucalyptus, cypress and redwood trees. Greens are

lin, cut him off on his way to the ninth tee.

"It's just hard," Carlin said.

In the late 1970s, Alvarez was at the course when de Lambert, a brash Swede, came to play. De Lambert had worked as a maître d'hôtel at the elegant Mark Hopkins hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco and as a lighting technician at the less elegant Condor strip club in North Beach, among other jobs. He announced that he wanted to take over the golf course, and the city was happy to lease it to him. Credited with saving the course, de Lambert quickly improved the holes, fixed the clubhouse and added the pub. And he renamed the course after his favorite one in Scotland.

"Nobody knew what it meant," Hsieh said. "But everyone went along with it." De Lambert spent part of his retirement living in a home he bought near Gleneagles in Scotland, according to his obituary. He died in 2013.

Hsieh, a longtime campaign consultant in San Francisco, took over the lease in 2004. Hsieh and other investors spent \$250,000, he said, to redo greens, repair irrigation systems and add hot water to the clubhouse, among other upgrades.

In 2010, though, several greens died quickly of disease. Crews of local golf course experts lent time and equipment, led by Thomas Bastis, the superintendent of nearby California Golf Club. All the greens were remade with high-end bentgrass. The first green was moved to its original location; de Lambert had placed it higher on the hill, into the trees. The greens still break, generally, toward the Cow Palace, San Francisco's ancient barn of an arena, visible a few blocks away. The latest threat to the course's long-term survival came over the summer. Hsieh received notice that water rates, amid the drought in California, would soon rise by nearly 50 percent. □



A view of the 9th green from the clubhouse at Gleneagles in San Francisco. While Scotland's Gleneagles is known around the world, San Francisco's Gleneagles, folded into a hillside of vast John McLaren Park, is barely known in its own neighborhood.

(Jason Henry/The New York Times)

It's sad."

"All putts break toward the Cow Palace."

The 2014 Ryder Cup began Friday at Gleneagles in Scotland, named the world's best golf resort the past three years at the Ultratravel awards. But across an ocean and across a continent is a distant relative, a hidden, scruffy nine-hole city-owned course named for the revered Scottish links.

"So difficult, we stopped building after nine holes," a sign on the outside wall of the clubhouse reads.

While Scotland's Gleneagles is known around the

potholed driveway off Sunnydale Avenue is the only indication of what is hidden in the trees.

"The speakeasy of golf courses," said Tom Hsieh, who has run the course since 2004 as part of a lease agreement with the city and county of San Francisco.

He has seven employees. The starter serves as the bartender. Tee times are not necessary, and there is an enviable selection of Scotch. The six-stool bar faces a wall of paned windows that overlook the first tee and the ninth green. Over the stands of euca-

Course at Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland.

The Ryder Cup will take place on another Gleneagles track, the relatively new PGA Centenary Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus.

"We're going to try to create a genuine Scottish golf course feel," Erik de Lambert said when he took over the lease at down-trodden McLaren Park Golf Course in 1980. The place was a money pit for the city, treasured by a few, ignored by most. De Lambert changed the name to Gleneagles Golf Course at McLaren Park.

tiny, slick, billowy and nearly perfect, having been rebuilt with bentgrass in 2010. Afternoon players are often greeted by a three-club wind from the west, sometimes accompanied by fog.

"You're always getting a U.S. Open shot," said Brian Scott, a regular since 1985. Scott said he had played courses around the world but found nothing like the challenge at Gleneagles, where the 18-hole record is a tauntingly high 64. He mentioned uneven lies, crooked fairways, towering trees, quick greens. His playing partner, Vidal Car-